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LIBBY PURVES

What makes law-abiding women lie for their husbands? Page 15

RUGBY SAFARI

Win an 18-day wildlife and World Cup Trip, page 40
Team news, pages 38, 39

FLYING DOCTORS

How safe will you be with surgery at 35,000ft? Page 5

20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,275

WEDNESDAY MAY 24 1995

Mystery crash on M4 leaves pensioners dead and injured after British Legion day trip

10 killed as coach veers off motorway

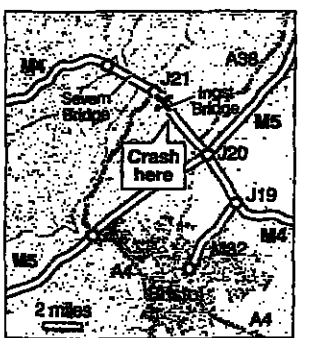
By MICHAEL HORSNELL, ROBIN YOUNG AND BILL FROST

AT LEAST ten pensioners on a Royal British Legion day trip to Wales were killed and a further 20 injured last night after their coach careened off the M4 and plunged down an embankment near Bristol.

Hospitals alerted over 100 medical staff to cope with the accident, which occurred between the Severn Bridge and the Almondsbury interchange with the M5.

No other vehicle is thought to have been involved in the accident which happened when the single-decker vehicle with 29 passengers was heading up a long incline. The coach, built in 1986, landed on its roof. Two of the dead drowned in four feet of water in the ditch running alongside the motorway. The driver is thought to have been thrown clear and was last night in hospital.

Department of Transport accident investigators were



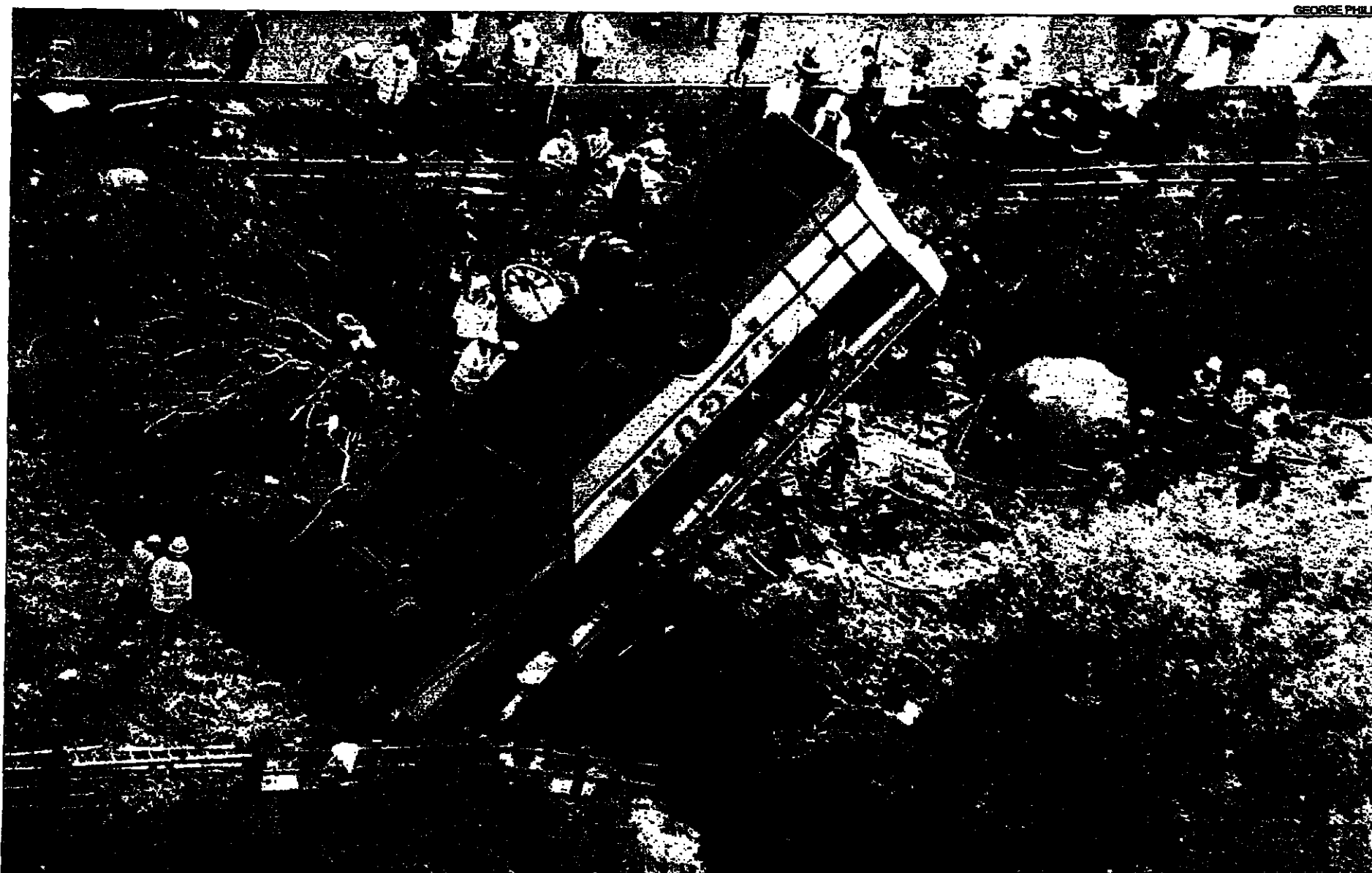
called to the scene. John Dando of Avon Fire Brigade said: "It is a quite horrific scene. In 15 years in the service I have never seen anything as bad. The coach left the carriageway about quarter of a mile from the Severn Bridge, rolled down an embankment and turned over into a culvert at the bottom.

"The motorway is quite straight, and it is impossible to tell what happened, to make the vehicle leave the road. I think everybody on board must have suffered injuries. There are multiple fatalities, and many of those alive have suffered multiple injuries.

If a report ordered by Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, last night concludes seat belts would have saved some lives, the accident will make demands for the compulsory fitting of belts on all coaches impossible for the Government to resist.

Experts are agreed that the vast majority of coach crash deaths are caused by the victims being thrown about inside the coach or being thrown out, often being crushed by the vehicle as it turns over.

The Severn Bridge east-bound carriageway was closed and diversions were brought in to carry eastbound commuter traffic through Gloucester. Laguna, the Bournemouth-based coach op-



A crane lifts the coach from a culvert while emergency workers look for survivors from yesterday's M4 crash which happened on a straight stretch of the road near Bristol

erators, said last night: "It was a party from the British Legion returning from a day's shopping trip to Cardiff. We were hired for the day."

As evening rush hour traffic built up police appealed to westbound motorists to keep their distance and not to look over to the accident scene.

Numerous ambulances and an emergency back-up unit carrying an inflatable tent which can be used to treat casualties at the roadside, were involved in the huge rescue operation.

Most of the injured were taken to Frenchay Hospital,

Bristol, where red alert procedures under the Avon major incident plan were implemented. Bristol Royal Infirmary and Southmead Hospital sent teams of doctors and nurses to the scene.

At the Royal British Legion club in Christchurch, old soldiers and their wives wept.

One said: "Some of the people on that coach fought for five years in the Second World War. The bullets and bombs never touched them. Now they have lost their lives on a day out."

Howard and Irene Hopkins booked to go on the day trip to

a Cardiff brewery but changed their minds just before they were due to board the coach at 8am. Mrs Hopkins, 77, said: "We have just been away for two weeks to Newquay and we felt it would be a very boring day out. It would have been a full coach, except for the two empty seats which we had booked."

As friends and relatives turned up at the British Legion club a local parish priest arrived to comfort them.

June Payne, deputy mayor of Christchurch, said: "A lot of families will be touched by this tragedy. The Royal British

Legion forms a very close part of our community because they are such a big club."

A second coach outing went ahead from the British Legion Club in Christchurch last night as news of the tragedy came through.

The driver was named as 39-year-old Steve Brown, Brian Gwynne, the owner of the company, which operates two single decker vehicles, was unavailable for comment.

Richard Thomas, from Bristol, who passed the scene just seconds after the accident, said: "It was absolutely horrific. There was a coach which

had obviously left the carriageway. It had ploughed down a bank. It was upside down and its roof had caved in.

"I had never seen anything like it in my life. I hate to think what must have happened to the people inside."

A spokeswoman for the ambulance service said: "We received the call at 16.18, to the eastbound carriageway of the M4 about quarter of a mile from the Severn Bridge."

"We have taken casualties with multiple injuries to Frenchay and British Royal Infirmary hospitals with

Southmead standing by on major incident alert. The driver of the coach is among those taken to Frenchay casualty department, but we have no other patient details or names at this stage.

"We put our major incident plan into operation and sent 11 accident and emergency ambulances, one paramedic motorcycle and seven officers. Senior managers and directors were brought into the control area."

A casualty bureau has been set up to handle calls from anxious members of the public on 01823 363080.

Ownership of media may be limited to 10%

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A RADICAL overhaul of media ownership rules is likely to limit any single owner to 10 per cent of the combined television, radio and newspaper marketplace.

The new rules proposed by the Government yesterday would effectively block expansion of the two biggest national press groups - News International, which owns The Times and four other newspapers, and Mirror Group, owner of the Mirror and Independent titles. Other groups will be able to buy independent television companies outright, providing they do not end up with more than 15 per cent of all viewers.

Although News International, which also owns a 40 per cent stake in the satellite television company BSkyB, will not initially be required to



Dorrell: announced major shakeup for British media

sell any of its interests, the company reacted angrily to the policy document published by Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, yesterday.

It said the proposals represented the "old vested and often unsuccessful" interests of Associated Newspapers, publisher of the Daily Mail, Pearson, owner of the Financial Times, and Carlton Communications, owner London's weekday ITV company.

"The message is stop investing in expansion and increase prices to hold back circulation," a News International statement said. It did not expect that the proposals would have an immediate effect on its business, but added: "News International will have to consider its position with regard to law-making newspapers which

augment its percentage of the market but not its profits. And BSkyB will eventually have to say to the cable companies that it can no longer provide programming which has driven the cable market so successfully.

"Of course there are many questions to be answered and we hope for a constructive dialogue with this supposedly free enterprise pro-competition Government."

The loss-making paper is understood to be the tabloid Today, whose circulation has slipped by nearly eight per cent in the past year.

Mr Dorrell, denied at a news conference that the proposals had been framed with any one owner in mind, saying: "I don't think that it's right to develop public policy with your eyes too firmly set on a single company or personality. And he later told the Commons that he did not propose "a dramatic change to Rupert Murdoch's business or anybody else's business."

But ministerial sources said the Cabinet was fully aware that the measures would constrain the Murdoch empire's ability to grow, and Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are both understood to have wanted a higher threshold.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Lloyd's offers names £2.8bn

Lloyd's of London has announced further losses of £1.2 billion and offered £2.8 billion to 31,000 names to compensate them for insurance losses of £3 billion.

The offer was welcomed by the names, who rejected £900 million in May 1993. The loss relates to 1992, when the market was hit by claims for Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki and City bombings. Page 23

Mansell dropped by McLaren

Nigel Mansell was yesterday dropped by McLaren Mercedes for the rest of the Formula One season, increasing the belief that the 1992 world champion will now retire from the sport after winning 31 Grands Prix, more than any other British driver. Pages 42, 44



Mansell: he may now retire from racing

Labour condemns lottery operator over £15m profit

By JON ASHWORTH

CAMELOT GROUP, the National Lottery operator, came under renewed attack yesterday, after claims that it was earning up to £1 million a week for its services. Labour called for full disclosure of profits, as Oflot, the regulator, said it had no plans to cap Camelot's earnings.

The storm over profits comes at a time of growing disquiet over the impact of the National Lottery. Cinemas, the pools companies, and High Street retailers, claim to be losing business. Small charities say donations are dwindling, and there are reports of addiction among players.

Figures to be released next month will show that Camelot made a pretax profit of £15 million to £20 million in the first 20 weeks of operation. Ticket sales reached £1 billion, leaving Camelot with a reputed £90 million - or 9 per cent of turnover - to cover operating costs and profits.

Oflot said it could not cap Camelot's earnings without seeking an amendment to the operator's licence. A skew towards higher earnings in the early stages boosted Camelot's revenue in the 20 weeks to end March, but the percentage take is thought to have tailed off since then. As sales increase, the return to Camelot goes down, leaving it with an

average take of 5 per cent over the seven-year period of its licence.

Peter Davis, director-general of the National Lottery, awarded the licence to Camelot last May after an eight-hour race. Camelot undertook to retain the lowest percentage of sales to cover costs and profit, giving it a clear edge over its rivals. However, the lottery's success appears to have caught Camelot and Oflot by surprise.

Neither expected the weekly on-line jackpot to exceed £2 million. The further unexpected success of the Instant scratch-card game has boosted sales to £105 million a week.

Speculation over earnings failed to dampen prospects for the members of the Camelot consortium. Shares in Cadbury Schweppes closed at 462p, a gain of 16p over two days. Shares in De La Rue, the security printer, rose 2p to 940p, while Racal Electronics saw its shares rise 2p to 260p.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said Oflot should demand a monthly breakdown of Camelot's profit and expenditure. "Ofot should insist on Camelot issuing figures month by month. It seems to be Camelot alone who decides where the money is going," he said.

Pennington, page 25



STANDING OVATION



RAVE REVIEWS

GENÈRENOISE FESTIVAL OPERA	22 May-27 August
RICHTERMAN, NATIONAL CITY	31 May-4 June
LOUIS VUITTON CONCERTS D'ÉLÉGANCE, HURLINGHAM CLUB	5 June
1st CORNELIA TONY MATCH, HEADLINE	8-12 June
THE BERRY, OXFORD	10 June
WASHINGTON OPERA	11 June-8 July
ROYAL ARCO	20-23 June
THE YOUNG CALAGOT GOLD CUP POLO, GOWAN PARK	25 June-16 July
WHITTON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS	26 June-8 July
HAMPTON COLONY PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	5-9 July

Veuve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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London Marathon organisers win £1m libel award



Chris Brasher, left, and John Disley celebrate their victory

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE organisers of the London Marathon accepted a £1 million libel payment yesterday from Channel 4 and *New Statesman and Society* magazine over allegations that they used the event to enrich themselves.

Chris Brasher and John Disley, both former Olympic runners who set up the marathon in 1981, said after the settlement was announced in the High Court that they had been "totally vindicated" by the four-year libel action and denounced their "trial by television".

They are to be awarded joint damages in excess of £380,000, believed to be the most awarded against a television company. The rest of the award will cover costs.

After the hearing, Mr Brasher criticised Michael Grade, the head of Channel 4, for wasting public money by "succumbing to the great

British disease of knocking people". Allegations that the marathon organisers had profited from the success of what is now Britain's largest athletic participation event first appeared in *New Statesman and Society* in July 1990 in an article by Duncan Campbell. This was followed by Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme in March 1991, presented by Mr Campbell, who has completed the marathon three times.

The programme's report was submitted to the Inland Revenue, the fraud squad and the Charities Commission, which started an investigation into the sportsmen's financial affairs and found no evidence of financial mismanagement.

At the High Court yesterday, George Carman, QC, told Mr Justice Waller that Mr Brasher and Mr Disley were men of distinction who had shown a great commit-

ment to sport over their lifetime. Michael Skrein, for Channel 4, and Geoffrey Bindman, solicitor for *New Statesman and Society*, said they now accepted that the programme and article contained allegations that were wrong. Channel 4 is to broadcast an unreserved apology after tonight's *Dispatches*.

Mr Brasher said afterwards the hearing that he had been "assassinated" by the *Dispatches* programme, which he watched with his wife on the night of its broadcast. "We had been tried on TV and found guilty," he said.

He condemned Michael Grade for burdening government departments with unnecessary work. "There was no substance in any of their allegations. They have caused public money to be spent unnecessarily. Four years ago they assured the court that they could justify all their charges - now they acknowledge that they cannot do so."

He said that he did not expect a personal apology from Michael Grade but hoped that in future Mr Grade may "contribute some money towards great sporting occasions rather than succumbing to the great British disease of knocking people".

Mr Disley said that their years as sportsmen had helped them over what had been a stressful four years. "We have suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune and arrows of outrageous fortune of competitive sport, which I think made us resilient." They will continue to help to organise the marathon, which has attracted more than 300,000 participants over 15 years and raised £60 million for charity. Mr Brasher said: "The runners... now know that it is not only the best marathon in the world but that it is also run fairly and honestly."

Channel 4 declined to comment on the libel action. Stephen Platt,

editor of *New Statesman and Society*, said that the magazine managers had been prepared for the result. "We had budgeted for the settlement and so we are not faced with imminent financial crises."

Duncan Campbell, who was not in court to hear the settlement, said that it had been dictated by a group of Lloyd's libel insurance brokers. "The insurers were not interested in the issues of the case or with Channel 4's reputation or editorial integrity. They instructed the lawyers not to prepare to defend the case, and they hoped to spend as little as possible," he said.

"It has always been my whole-hearted view that the London Marathon is an excellent event, and I hope to run it again. I am happy to hear that Chris Brasher was drinking champagne. The libel insurers should be drinking vinegar."

Children in care exploited

Council's PC bias 'helped pimps and paedophiles'

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A LEFT-WING council's politically correct policies in favour of gays, women and ethnic minorities helped paedophiles, pimps, drug dealers and child pornographers to exploit children in care, according to a report yesterday.

Islington Borough Council's failed policies mean that some of those responsible for the scandal are still working in childcare today.

Although the north London authority has totally revised its procedures and is "in a much more robust state of health", Ian White, the Oxfordshire director of social services who compiled the report, gave a warning last night that politically correct procedures and badly co-ordinated efforts to decentralise services were likely to create similar serious problems elsewhere.

"There is a fair chance that in other areas of the country there are timebombs like this ticking away," he said. "A laudable policy, implemented

badly, results in the seeds of doom being sown."

Islington has now recommended that all other authorities employing its former staff check their history with the Department of Health. The report emphasises, however, that only a small number of paedophiles are ever convicted, so the chances of their names appearing on the department register are slim.

The report suggests that the Home Office should pool police and social service information about suspects in children's homes, education and the youth service.

The independent report, commissioned by Islington into its own childcare department, found that between 1982 and 1992 allegations of criminal behaviour and misconduct by staff were not thoroughly examined, because "managers believed they would not be supported if they triggered disciplinary investigations involving staff from ethnic minorities or the gay community."

It cannot be a coincidence that of the 32 staff a number fall within that group."

This positive bias towards certain groups became "unfair protection and a great danger". Many staff were originally recruited with minimum checks because the council had positive discrimination in favour of minorities and could not insist on references from previous employers or challenge the status of a referee, who might be a close personal friend.

At the same time as the minority groups were helped to find jobs, there was "no strong ethos of promoting children's rights and protecting children at risk".

On top of that the council had set about decentralising its child care services, which meant that unqualified people were put in charge of them. That resulted in "a demoralised management system, unsupported and with fragmented leadership... staffed by people not from a social services background... Clearly such an organisation becomes a recipe for disaster."

All this led to the creation of a "weak, ineffective organisation which was set up by individuals to feed off for their own advantage: it was paralysed by equal opportunity and race issues".

Although Mr White was unable to check the abuse stories, he found that chaotic organisation had bred the conditions for dangerous and negligent practices. "The possibility that many of the allegations made were true remains."

Since suspect staff were not properly investigated, they were able to look for jobs elsewhere without any stain on their characters. "As a consequence the possibility remains that staff engaged in abusive behaviour are now working elsewhere."

Of the 32 staff named in a confidential appendix to the report, the only one employed by the council still working in childcare was suspended yesterday. Two of the others were dismissed earlier after disciplinary procedures, five left on health grounds before disciplinary action was concluded, one was dismissed and just one faced a charge of child abuse. Ten of the remainder resigned or took early retirement. Some of those obtained improved benefits and all of them had a clean record.

Fan's convictions listed at trial of England footballer

By RICHARD DUCE

THE football fan who claims he was hit by the Manchester United and England player Paul Ince has convictions for soccer violence dating back 25 years, a court heard yesterday.

Ince, the 27-year-old midfielder, is alleged to have punched Dennis Warren on the nose moments after the incident in which his United colleague Eric Cantona kicked another spectator at the Crystal Palace ground in south London during a match in January.

Under cross-examination at Croydon Magistrates' Court by Henri Brandman, defending Ince, it emerged that Mr Warren, 48, a dustman, had three times been fined after incidents at football grounds. Mr Warren was also banned for three months by the Surrey Football Association for making abusive remarks from the touchline during a game.

Jeffery McCann, for the prosecution, claims that after Cantona's flying kick on January 25, Ince was one of several United players who ran towards the scene. Cantona had been sent off and sections of the crowd were shouting abuse at him. Mr McCann said that Ince was "beckoning" to the crowd and that he

swore, shouting: "Come on then, we'll take the lot of you."

The court was told that Mr Warren, who had come down from the 13th row, was then punched once by Ince and fell backwards.

Ince, of Bramhall, Manchester, denies assaulting Mr Warren and using threatening words or behaviour likely to provoke the immediate use of unlawful violence.

Ince, who is black, later told

police he had not been subject to racial abuse by the crowd. Mr Warren told the court the only taunt he made was: "You're a joke and your team's a joke." Mr Warren said: "There was one blow on the side of the nose."

Mr Brandman produced a list of Mr Warren's previous convictions which began in 1969 when he was fined £20 after fighting.

Mr Warren admitted that he should not have come down to the front of the stand because it had led to the ensuing trouble.

Mr Brandman told him: "You were looking for trouble. You were not hit by my client and you didn't fall to the ground." Mr Warren replied: "I'm not on trial here, you raked all that [his past] up."

The magistrates were shown video footage of the alleged incident showing Mr Warren moving to the front of the stand.

Eight spectators were called as prosecution witnesses. Some claimed to have seen Ince land the blow; others said they could only see him shouting and gesticulating. The trial continues.



Dennis Warren

England call-up, page 44

Villagers kick out unloved massage parlour

By ROBIN YOUNG

RESIDENTS of a village mentioned in the Domesday Book have succeeded in expelling an unwelcome addition to rural services: a massage parlour and suspected brothel set up in a barn near the local hairdressers.

The 900 residents of Orwell, Cambridgeshire, were incensed when advertisements started to appear in the personal columns of local newspapers, offering massage services and therapeutic remedies and giving an Orwell telephone number. Some residents received misdirected requests for services that they considered too indecent to describe in detail.

Customers in the hairdresser's saw men arriving at the house next door, complaints were made to the parish council and at least eight villagers wrote to the police. One letter was sent to Ben Gunn, Cambridgeshire Chief Constable, and then circulated in the community. But before a police surveillance operation could be set up the tenants of the barn had disappeared.

The chairman of the parish council, Gordon Lines, 70, a retired quantity surveyor, said yesterday that it was a victory for the residents of his close-knit community, where support for both Church and Chapel is strong. "We only have the hairdressers, a village store and the pub," he said, "but we definitely did not want services of this nature in a nice, quiet village like this. Everyone was horrified."



Whitehead: kept diary

Driver's wife is offered £15,000

By LIN JENKINS AND EMMA WILKINS

A MOTHER freed on appeal after lying to police about her husband's car accident kept a diary of the three days she spent in Holloway jail to avoid thinking about her three young children.

Patricia Whitehead, 32, who had claimed she was driving when her husband hit a motorcyclist, is considering making her account public after being offered up to £15,000 by newspapers.

As she discussed options with her lawyers yesterday, the motorcyclist injured in the accident last August condemned the Court of Appeal's decision to quash Mrs Whitehead's two-month sentence. Robert Pearce, 28, from Bristol, who suffered minor injuries to his foot, said: "I think she should have stayed in prison because she lied."

Mrs Whitehead, a Cub Scout pack assistant from Brockenhurst, Hampshire, was reunited with Ian, nine, Christian, seven, and Alexander, five, on Monday at their grandparents' home on the Isle of Wight. After an emotional telephone call to her husband in prison, Mrs Whitehead left the house through a gap in the garden hedge - evading a group of reporters outside.

Her mother-in-law Lavinia, 74, said: "David is really pleased that she is out and she was pleased to speak to him on the phone. She was very tired because she did not sleep while she was in prison and David has said that he is the same. But she is feeling better and she slept quite well."

Mrs Whitehead is serving four months in Winchester prison for perverting the course of justice. His lawyers are considering an application to the Court of Appeal.

Libby Purves, page 15

SATURDAY

Sweet talkin' guy

JOANNA PITMAN MEETS LIAM NEESON

IN THE **MAGAZINE**

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 95, WEEKEND MONEY AND VISION, THE 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE

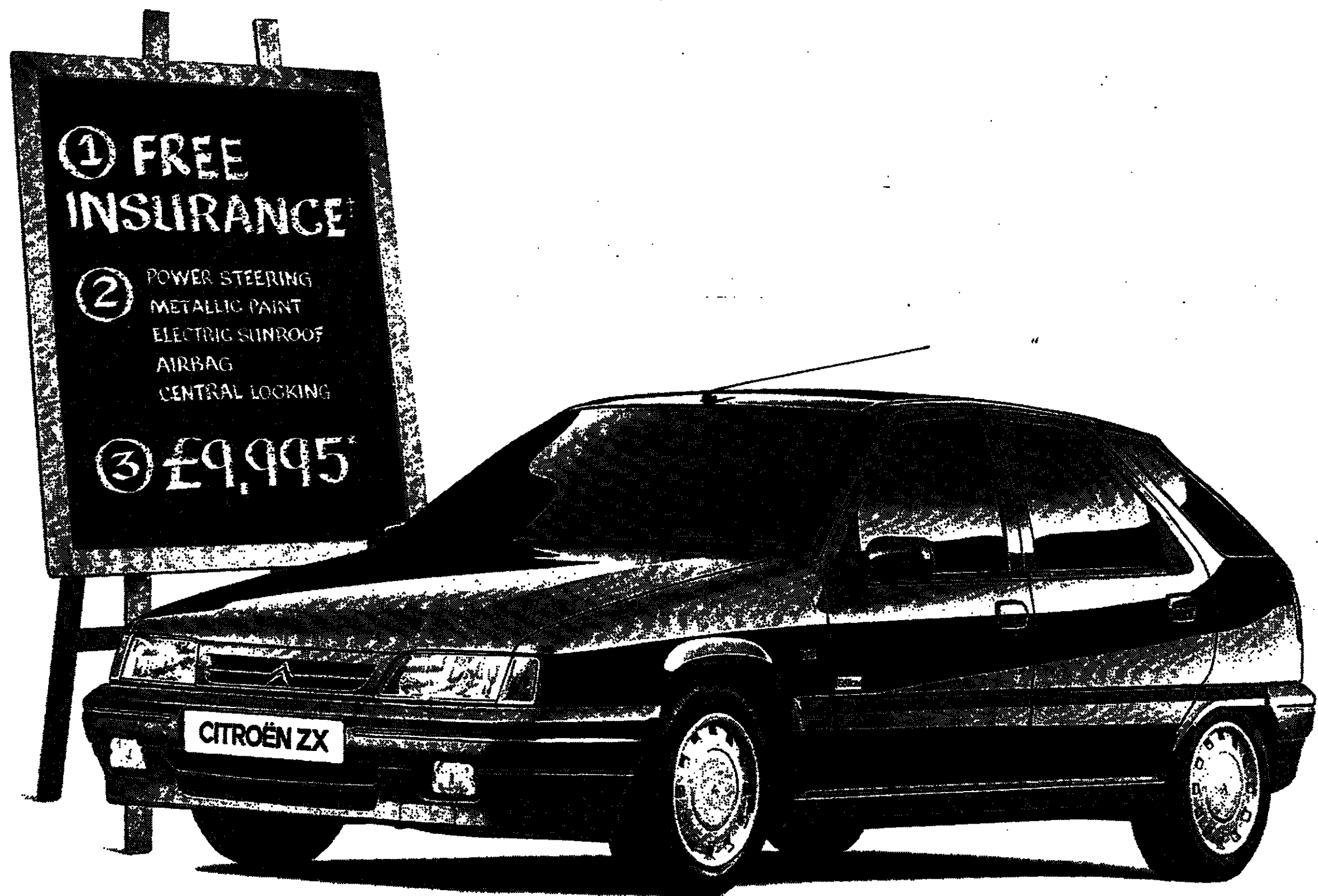
THE SIX-SECTION TIMES IS 30p ON SATURDAY

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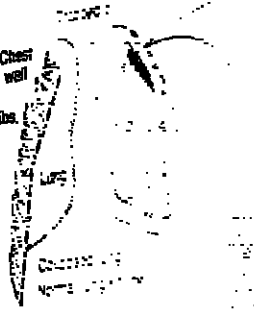
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مكتبة من الأصل

Woman passenger goes home after surviving operation in row 53 of economy class

Jumbo jet surgeon tells how he saved tourist at 35,000ft

By JEREMY LAURANCE AND ROBIN YOUNG

THE woman whose life was saved in an emergency operation with a coat-hanger on board a jumbo jet flying at 35,000ft left hospital yesterday after doctors said she was doing well.

Pauline Dixon, who collapsed with a punctured lung after being injured in a motor-cycle accident on her way to catch the flight from Hong Kong, was described yesterday by one of her saviours as "an ideal patient".

Mrs Dixon, 39, a mother of three from Aberdeen, would probably have died if she had caught the plane on which she was originally booked and the two doctors had not been aboard to help.

Brian Ellis, consultant surgeon at Ashford Hospital, west London, where Mrs Dixon was taken on arrival at Heathrow on Sunday, said: "Without their action they

would have been taking a corpse off that plane."

Professor Angus Wallace, an accident surgeon at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, who answered an appeal for help on BA flight 032 with Dr Tom Wong, a junior doctor at Stracathro Hospital, Tayside, performed the improvised surgery using cognac, a coat-hanger, a roll of Sellotape and a bottle of mineral water.

Yesterday, Professor Wallace described how he carried out the operation in row 53 of economy class. "The woman was complaining of a painful arm. We made a makeshift splint and made her comfortable but after 20 minutes she said she had a severe pain in the left side of her chest."

"I examined her again and found she had between two and three fractured ribs. Her left lung had collapsed and

was pressing onto the right one. I knew the situation could easily deteriorate. I reckoned we had to operate within five minutes."

"I told her I was terribly sorry but I was going to have to operate. She just smiled and said go ahead."

"The air crew were marvelous. Soon we had constructed a makeshift operating theatre around her seat, pinning up blue and red blankets for privacy. From the on-board emergency medical kit we got a scalpel, scissors and a urinary catheter tube. We needed to make the tube rigid so a coat-hanger was pushed into it."

"We used brandy to sterilise the equipment. One of the stewards felt that if we were going to do it we should do it properly so a five-star Courvoisier was produced."

"I then made an incision and pushed the catheter into the chest wall. This was held in place by Sellotape and attached to a bottle of Evian mineral water to act as a chest drain."

"She was an ideal patient. She was apprehensive but she was quite ill, and often people who are quite ill accept what is being done to them. After the operation I must admit I had a rather large shot of brandy to calm my nerves. The patient gave me a kiss and a smile and said thank you."

Dr Wong, back at Stracathro Hospital yesterday, declared he was "delighted to help" but claimed he had played only a small part.

The professor's Nottingham colleagues were not surprised by his actions. One woman doctor said yesterday: "He is never a person to stand back if something needs to be done."

Leading article, page 17



Angus Wallace with the mineral water bottle he used as a chest drain to help to save the life of Pauline Dixon



Emergency kit packs in 88 items

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS handled 2,078 medical incidents ranging from headaches to heart attacks during flights last year — one for every 15,000 passengers. In 559 cases, a doctor or nurse who happened to be on board responded to the emergency. Eighteen flights were diverted to enable a sick passenger to be taken to hospital.

Commercial aircraft are required by law to carry basic medical equipment including bandages, a tourniquet and smelling salts. Many airlines, including British Airways, fly with far more than is required by the Civil Aviation Authority. The BA kit is stored in a secure luggage compartment in the cabin and its seals can be broken only with permission of the captain. The contents are divided into two



BA's box includes scalpel, catheter and 26 drugs

parts, one for use by the cabin crew and the other, containing dangerous drugs, for use only by doctors.

There are 88 items in the kit, including dressings of various types and sizes, a scalpel, catheter, sutures, local anaesthetic, resuscitation equip-

ment and 26 drugs. The kit is regularly checked to ensure it is up-to-date and contains drugs and equipment considered useful.

The captain has sole discretion on whether to allow the treatment of a patient in the air or to divert the aircraft. He can receive instant advice over a high-frequency radio link with a British Airways doctor.

The airline's 13,500 crew members, including pilots and cabin crew, are trained in basic medical emergency drills when they join the company. Cabin crew attend a four-day course in the medical training department, where they are taught how to use the emergency equipment, how to diagnose the more common incidents such as a heart attack or an allergic reaction, and even how to deliver a baby. Crews must pass written and practical examinations before being allowed to fly and return to the medical centre once a year for a day's refresher course.

In this week's emergency operation the medical kit proved invaluable. The doctors used the catheter, scalpel, sterile swabs, sutures, painkillers and local anaesthetic.

MP faces trial over pick-axe allegation

Allan Stewart, Conservative MP for Eastwood, is to face trial in September charged with brandishing a pick-axe and causing a breach of the peace. Mr Stewart, 53, pleaded not guilty by letter at Paisley Sheriff Court.

The charges relate to the former Scottish Industry Minister's presence on February 5 at the site of a protest against an extension to the M77 Glasgow to Ayr road.

Mother to sue

A mother of four who became pregnant six months after a contraceptive implant was placed in her arm plans to sue. Sharon Pears, 31, is seeking legal advice on whether she has a case against the UK distributors or Finnish manufacturers.

Boy remanded

A boy aged 15 was remanded into secure accommodation yesterday charged with the murder of Janet Swanson, 14, behind the Killingbeck industrial estate in Leeds last Saturday. He is to appear in court again on June 1. No bail application was made.

Death inquiry

The death of a woman at a residential home is being investigated by police. Edna Lawes was allegedly smothered with a pillow on the evening of her 81st birthday. She was found dead by care assistants at the home at Tipton St John, Devon.

Office ailment

Almost 500,000 people take time off because of "sick building syndrome" which costs millions of pounds in lost productivity, the Health and Safety Executive said. The cause is not known but the condition is more likely in open-plan offices.

Pupils suspended

Five boarders aged 17 and 18 at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, have been suspended after taking a teacher's car for a two-hour midnight joyride around the town. The final-year pupils will be allowed to sit their A levels. Police are investigating.

Memoirs sold

The memoirs of a soldier who marched with Wellington in the Peninsular War (1808-14) sold for £6,900 at Bonhams in Knightsbridge. The recollections of Corporal John Parker, of the 20th Foot, from Norfolk, went to a private buyer.

Flying doctors maintain tradition of medical improvisation

Dr Thomas Stuttford

TRAUMATIC tension pneumothorax, the condition in which air collects to form a pocket between the layers of the pleura, the covering to the lungs, is a common complication of fractured ribs and other penetrating injuries.

As air accumulates in the air pocket the lung beneath it becomes increasingly squeezed. The patient suffers chest pain, becomes cyanosed (blue in the face) and distressingly breathless. The accumulation of air within the chest pushes the heart and trachea (windpipe) to one side, the neck veins become distended and the chest wall no longer moves regularly and easily.

Insertion of a flexible tube

through the chest wall into the pocket of air at one end and connected to an underwater seal — in Pauline Dixon's case a bottle of Perrier — at the other allows the air to escape. Once the air has bubbled out through the water seal, the heart returns to its normal position, the patient rapidly becomes pink, and life is saved.

The mid-air operation by Professor Angus Wallace, an orthopaedic surgeon, and Dr Tom Wong, a junior hospital doctor, continues the tradition of doctors improvising in difficult situations. The Sims' vaginal speculum, the metal instrument shaped like the end of a riding crop which is frequently used in

gynaecological examinations, was designed by a doctor who, when out riding, had to use his crop to assess the injuries and stem the bleeding of a woman who damaged her pelvis in a heavy fall.

It is every doctor's nightmare to be faced with a person dying in front of them when they have no access to the tools with which they could so easily save that person's life. Miss Dixon was lucky that there was a surgeon on board, and even luckier that he was an orthopaedic surgeon. By the nature of their profession, they are the car-

penters of medicine, dextrous and accustomed to improvisation.

Preserving the patient's airway is the immediate concern. Often this can be done simply but sometimes the only way to allow a patient to breathe is to introduce an airway through the throat.

To cut somebody's throat is never an easy decision. The old method, the tracheotomy, was described in textbooks as "an operation requiring some nerve and a level head". Tricky in inexperienced hands, even when equipped with scalpels, Spencer Wells forceps, retractors,

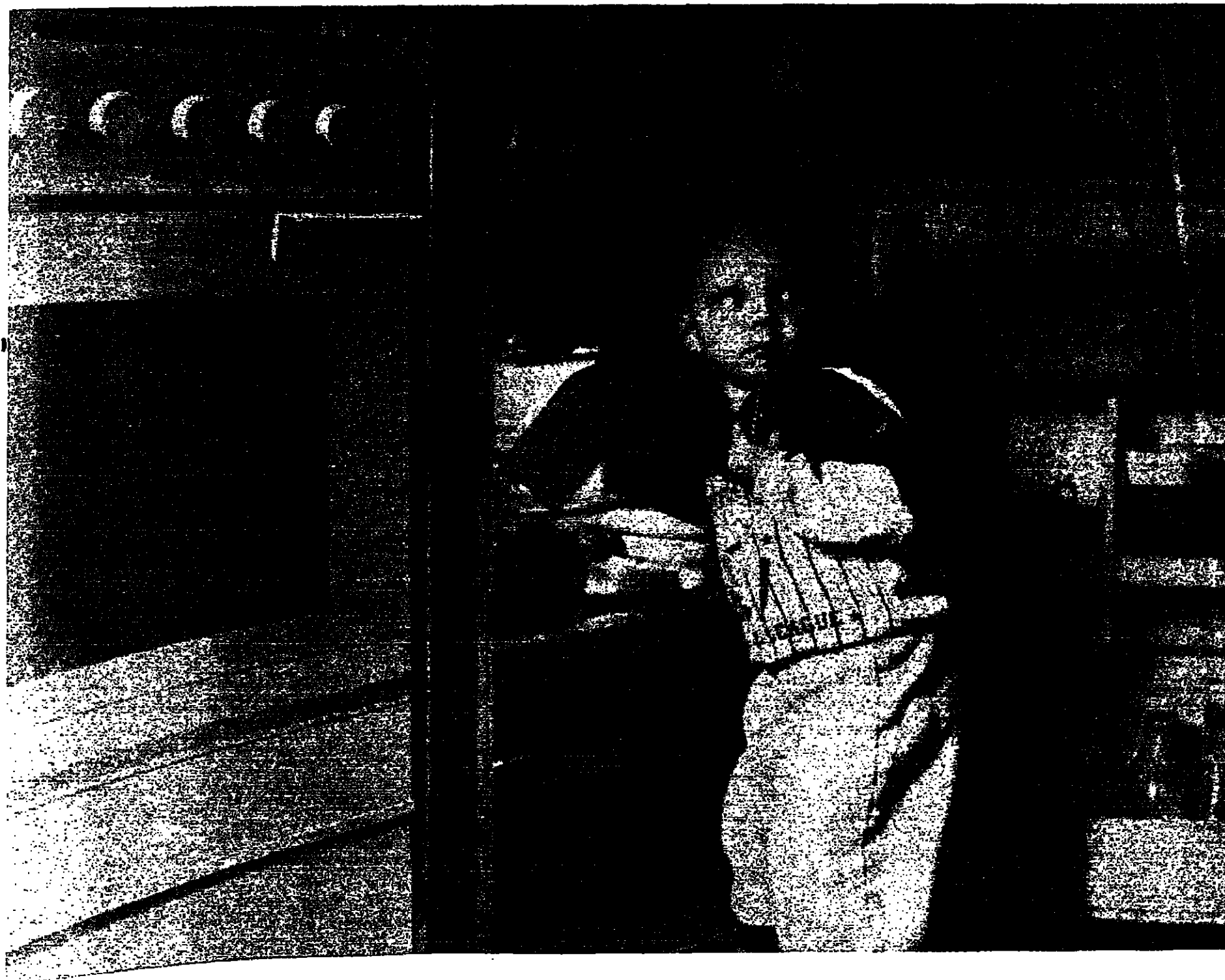
scissors and a choice of tracheotomy tubes, the operation is frightening when the only instruments available are a soldier's knife and the barrel of a fountain pen. Yet this operation was carried out on many battlefields in both world wars.

Recently a quicker, and safer, way through the throat and into the airways has been recommended, via the membrane between the thyroid and cricoid cartilages in the neck. This method, too, has been tested in the battlefield: in Cyprus an army sergeant saved a soldier's life by using his knife and a Biro.

In Japanese prison-of-war camps medical officers became past masters in making do. Hollow bamboo

stems were used to give intravenous fluids which had been cleverly sterilised. In the Far East one doctor operated on a case of acute appendicitis and used tough jungle grass for the stitches.

Professor Wallace's choice of brandy as an antiseptic also has good historical precedence. After Nelson was killed at Trafalgar his body was, reputedly, pickled in a barrel of brandy to be brought back to England. Unfortunately, unlike Professor Wallace, who only drank the brandy left over after the operation, Nelson's sailors couldn't resist the occasional swig, and the barrel was half empty by the end of the journey.



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Newspaper groups freed to increase investment in television

Government blueprint sets 10% ceiling on media ownership

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's long-awaited proposals on cross-media ownership would abolish the existing structure of complex rules and replace them with a simple regulatory regime, setting a ceiling of 10 per cent on the total share of the media market that can be controlled by any one company.

The abolition of the current restrictions, which separate television, newspapers and radio, is a recognition of the increasing convergence between the print, television and radio industries. The proposals announced by Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, envisage a two-stage process.

Under the first stage it would enact primary legislation as soon as possible, probably in the next parliamentary session, to remove the restrictions that prevent newspaper and commercial terrestrial television companies from buying more than 20 per cent of each other's shares.

Newspaper groups with less than 20 per cent of national newspaper circulation would be able to buy ITV, cable or satellite television stations, providing they do not have more than 15 per cent of the total available television audience (including cable and satellite, ITV and BBC viewers), and so long as they do not

control more than two ITV licences.

At present only two print groups have more than 20 per cent of total national newspaper circulation. News International, owner of *The Times*, accounts for 37 per cent of national newspaper circulation, while the Mirror group, owner of the *Mirror* and *Independent* titles, has 26 per cent. These two companies would effectively be barred from controlling any terrestrial television company.

Newspaper groups will not be allowed to buy ITV companies or local radio stations in areas where they have more than 30 per cent of the regional newspaper circulation.

Under the legislation, which is unlikely to become law before 1997, television groups would be able to buy newspapers under reciprocal conditions to those applying to print groups. The Independent Television Commission would have to approve all such deals.

No company can own more than two regional ITV licences. This will come as a disappointment to some of the bigger ITV companies, which had lobbied hard to be allowed to hold three or more franchises.

ITV companies will, however, be allowed to invest in cable and satellite companies, and vice versa, providing that no one group has more than 15

THE MAIN POINTS

SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- Newspaper groups with less than 20 per cent of the national market will be allowed to own ITV companies outright
- ITV companies with less than 15 per cent of the total television audience can buy national newspapers
- News International, owner of five national newspapers, including *The Times*, and of 40 per cent in BSkyB, is effectively capped at its current ownership level

LONG-TERM MEASURES

- No company will be able to own more than 10 per cent of the total market
- No company can own more than 20 per cent of the market in any regional or individual media sector
- A media regulator will decide whether media ownership levels are in the public interest

Ownership above these thresholds would not automatically be illegal, but would be subject to approval by an independent media regulator, who would decide whether it was in the public interest, which would be deemed to include promotion of diversity within the industry.

The means by which media concentration is to be measured have yet to be defined and may include weightings giving varying degrees of importance to each media type.

The concept of thresholds and a weighted points system is similar in approach suggested to the Government by the British Media Industry Group, which has waged a vigorous campaign to allow newspaper groups greater freedom to invest in television companies. The group comprises Associated Newspapers, owner of the *Daily Mail*; Pearson, which owns the *Financial Times*; The Guardian Media Group and The Telegraph plc.

The Department of National Heritage is inviting responses to the policy document by August 31. The stage two policies are unlikely to appear in a White Paper before the next Parliament and it could be the next century before they become law.

Berlusconi pullout, page 12
Leading article, page 17
Media, page 30



Stephen Dorrell announcing the new regulatory regime in Whitehall yesterday

per cent of the total available television audience.

Satellite and cable companies which are more than 20 per cent owned by a national newspaper group will be restricted to a maximum of 20 per cent of a terrestrial television station. Thus BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, would not be allowed to own more than 20 per cent of any ITV company or Channel 5.

The upper limit on the number of local radio stations controlled by any one company will be removed, but no group will be allowed to own more than one national radio licence or more than 15 per cent of the sector.

The Government intends to

enact immediate legislation, which could come into force within the next two months, to tidy up a number of unresolved issues. This would include increasing the limit on the number of local radio licences that any single company may own from 20 to 35.

Stage two of the proposals would introduce a fresh approach to media ownership, based on the share of the total market. No company would be allowed to own more than 10 per cent of the total media market. Within that overall limit, no one owner would be permitted to control more than 20 per cent of any sector (television, press or radio) or 20 per cent of the media market in any region.

Markets predict shaky picture for TV firms

By MARTIN WALLER

THE losers under yesterday's proposals would appear to include News International and the Mirror Group, both of which control more of the media market than would be permissible.

However, the City saw no immediate threat to either. The rules will take at least until the end of the decade to implement, and much leeway will apparently be left with the unnamed and unspecified industry regulator. Shares in News International were unchanged, while those in the Mirror Group were only slightly lower.

Instead the City turned its attention to the medium-sized television companies, which are now unlikely to be taken over by bigger licence-holders. Shares in Scottish Television and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees fell heavily, both having been seen previously as serious bid candidates. One broker said: "There is going to be no ITV consolidation for the next couple of years."

Granada, with 14 per cent of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, cannot now buy the rest because it already has two franchises: its home base in the North West and the London Weekend franchise. Likewise, MAI, which this month bought a near-15 per cent holding in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees from Pearson, is blocked by its ownership of Anglia and a controlling stake in Meridian.

A third big player, Carlton, also has two franchises. "It makes Pearson's decision to sell its Yorkshire-Tyne Tees stake look quite clever," one analyst said, "and MAI's decision to buy less clever."

Scottish Television is known to have expansion plans, but its big shareholder — the Mirror Group, with 20 per cent — is prevented from further purchases because of the size of its share of the newspaper market. Scottish cannot even combine with Yorkshire to gain size and buying power because of the latter's ownership of the Tyne Tees franchise.

The most likely buyers of the medium-sized television operators were seen to be ambitious newspaper groups such as those that own *The Guardian* and the *Daily*

THE PRESS

Share of total national newspaper circulation

Newspaper group	Share (%)
News International	37
<i>The Sun</i> , <i>Today</i> , <i>The Times</i> , <i>News of the World</i> , <i>The Sunday Times</i>	
Mirror Group Newspapers	26
<i>Daily Mirror</i> , <i>Daily Record</i> , <i>Sunday Mirror</i> , <i>Sunday Record</i>	
<i>The People</i> , <i>The Independent</i> , <i>The Independent on Sunday</i>	
United Newspapers	13
<i>Daily Express</i> , <i>Daily Star</i> , <i>Sunday Express</i>	
Daily Mail and General Trust	12
<i>Daily Mail</i> , <i>The Mail On Sunday</i>	
The Telegraph plc	7
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , <i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	
Guardian Media Group	3
<i>The Guardian</i> , <i>The Observer</i>	
Pearson	1
<i>Financial Times</i>	

Source: Based on ABC audited figures Jan-Dec 1994 adjusted to take account of Sunday newspapers and rounded to the nearest whole number.

Mail. The Guardian group has a 15 per cent holding in the morning broadcaster GMTV, while the Mail group has 20 per cent of Westcountry, although its strong local newspaper inter-

ests there might preclude further buying.

The imminent liberalisation of the radio market boosted shares in Capital Radio and the Bristol-based GWR. "Radio is the net beneficiary," one City analyst said.

Other judgments from the City were that the proposals were vague, "a damp squib" and "a hedge-podge." Anthony de Larrinaga, of the broker Panmure Gordon, summed up the mood when he said: "Wherever there is some synergy, then you aren't allowed to take advantage of it."

He added: "Letting some mid-range newspaper players into television would release some of the shackles. But the consolidation that had been seen to be coming seems not to be the case now."

"It's really down to the likes of United Newspapers [owner of the *Express* titles], the Mail group and Pearson. It gives them the opportunities, but it's a question of whether they will take them."

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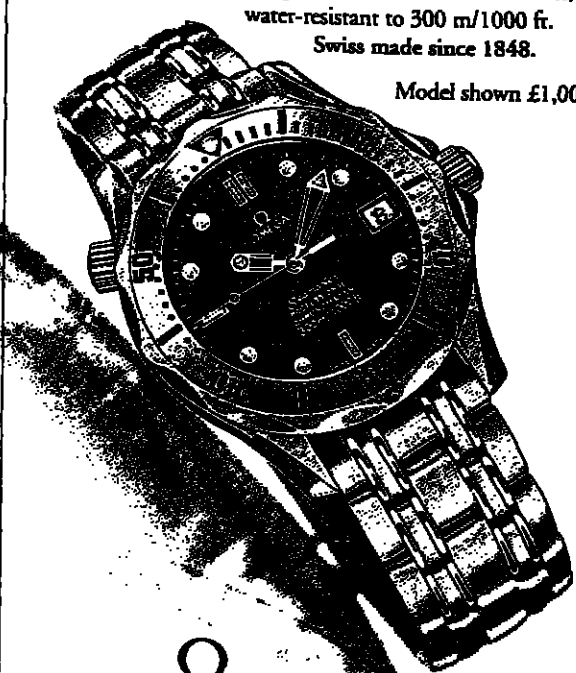
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Mackay advocates league table of legal aid lawyers

BY FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CLIENTS would be able to choose lawyers according to their success in winning cases under "league tables" proposed by the Lord Chancellor yesterday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern told a conference in London that the public should be able to choose a legal aid lawyer "not by a firm's popularity but by outcomes". Contracts awarded by the Legal Aid Board should also be granted on standards of service. "It is not for me to tell people which solicitors they should go to, but it may be for me to say that the chance of getting a longer prison sentence is greater if they go to X rather than Y - and leave them to make a decision," he said.

In a reference to high-profile "campaigning" law firms, Lord Mackay said: "If a particular firm is popular, for one reason or another, but gives a very poor service to its clients, should that firm be preferred by those clients?"

Popularity does not necessarily mean that those who are popular are good.

The proposals could be extended to barristers' chambers. Lord Mackay said after his speech. Solicitors and advice agencies who will be "buying" barristers' services would want data on which to judge their success rates, in line with the performance data that hospital doctors have to provide for GP budget-holders.

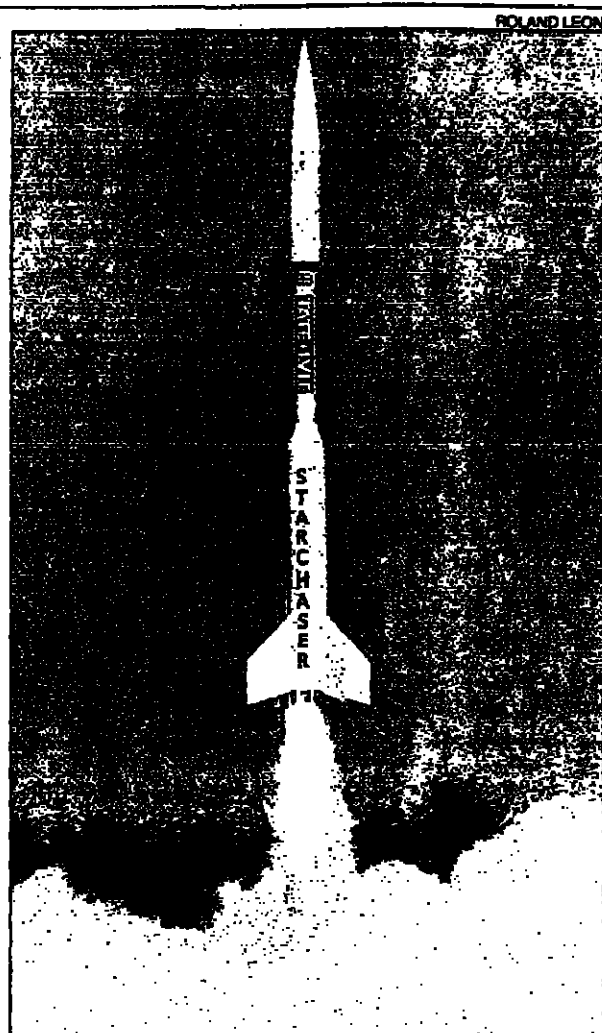
Last week Lord Mackay outlined Green Paper proposals to reform the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme in which contracts would be awarded to law firms and advice agencies. He told more than 300 lawyers and advice workers yesterday that such contracts would be allocated on quality of service.

Measurements of performance or "outcomes" of cases had been done in the field of education, where league tables were published. "Criteria

of that kind might be of some importance in deciding if a firm's popularity was well gained," Lord Mackay said that when at the Bar he had marvelled at the way certain people succeeded in attracting work. But their clients did not always benefit from their services "for some considerable time". Steven Orchard, chief executive of the Legal Aid Board, said that it would be possible to devise success rates for each area of legal work. Other factors would include time taken on a case, whether the judgment was enforced and client satisfaction.

The proposals were criticised by Henry Hodge, deputy vice-president of the Law Society, who said: "The problem is, who would decide what a good result is? If a solicitor coerces someone into a guilty plea and into getting a short sentence, is that a measure of success?"

Law Report, page 37



Sugar-powered Starchaser 1A lifting off yesterday

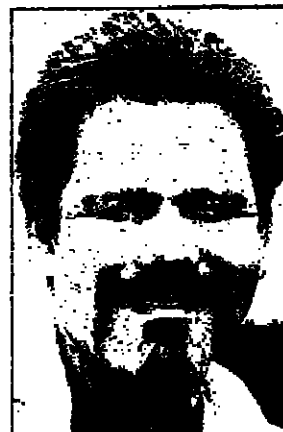
Rocket man launches DIY craft towards final frontier

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

AN AMATEUR scientist launched a rocket 1½ miles into the sky yesterday, using fuel made from household sugar. He promised to conquer space before the end of the century.

Two hundred spectators gathered to watch Steve Bennett's 10ft-long prototype rocket, Starchaser 1A, make its maiden flight. After its successful mission, monitored by an onboard computer chip, the rocket fell back to Earth assisted by parachute, landing close to the launch site in Montgomery, Powys.

Mr Bennett, a 31-year-old laboratory technician from Manchester, now hopes his secret propellant will set records in the DIY space programme. He said: "I am getting closer and closer to the big one and I am determined to send one of my rockets into Space by the year 2000, with me in it if it's possible by then. I believe I'm close to leading the world in amateur rocketry and the fuel I'm working with just now is good



Bennett: inventive

enough to blow the opposition away."

Mr Bennett's next mission, scheduled for November, is an attempt to launch a 24ft craft, the biggest amateur rocket in Europe, more than two miles into the sky. He said: "Starchaser 2 will be four times heavier but will not be as fast. The original Starchaser 1 was a failure because the parachutes failed to open and it was smashed to pieces."

Mr Bennett started build-

ing rockets at the age of 13, inspired by the television series *Thunderbirds* and *Star Trek*. He made his early prototypes from old aluminium tubing and whatever household debris came to hand. "All the other kids were into their fairy stories and sci-fi. But I was always interested in science because it made things really happen. By the time I was 13 I had made up my mind that I was going to build rockets and send them as high up into space as I could."

"Rockets are dangerous and volatile but a successful launch really is poetry in motion. My spine begins to tingle and the buzz I get out of it is incredible. One day I might be the next Captain Kirk, leading a team of explorers through the final frontier."

He uses the lightweight carbon composites that built the Challenger space shuttle. Working in his garage, he spends eight months constructing an airworthy rocket. Tate and Lyle, sponsor of the project, supplied an undisclosed quantity of money and sugar.

Allotment gardeners fail to halt eviction

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

ALLOTMENT holders have lost a legal battle to save their plots from council development in a case with far-reaching implications for thousands of allotment gardeners.

A High Court judge ruled yesterday that Newcastle City Council could evict the holders provided that "adequate provision" was made for them elsewhere even though they enjoyed statutory protection under the 1925 Allotments Act. The council hopes to raise £500,000 by selling the land.

Mr Justice Laws upheld an Environment Department decision in November 1993 to overrule the advice of its planning inspector and approve the development of the 7,750 sq yd site of 30 plots in Gosforth where there have been allotments since before the Second World War.

The case turned on the interpretation of the phrase "adequate provision" in the Act. The judge accepted the department's view that it meant the offer of any alternative site "on which allotment gardening can reasonably be undertaken by the persons who are displaced". He rejected claims that the new plots had to be as good as the old.

Sixth-form voucher scheme deferred

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

PLANS to issue education vouchers to sixth-formers were postponed indefinitely yesterday after the Government accepted that they posed too many practical problems to allow swift progress before the next general election.

The decision is a rebuff for Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, who had sought Cabinet support for pilot schemes involving 25,000 16-year-olds. Ministers would commit themselves only to re-examining the funding advantage enjoyed by schools over further education colleges, the main barrier to fair competition between the two sectors.

Mr Portillo and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, yesterday announced that careers advice would be strengthened and that further consultations would be held on introducing vouchers, or "learning credits" and on changes to sixth-form funding. A government-commissioned study by the management consultants Coopers & Lybrand concluded: "As a concept, learning credits is attractive. However, to turn the concept into reality is far from simple."

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THE TIMES An evening with Baroness Thatcher



To mark the publication of her second volume of memoirs, *The Path to Power*, The Times, in co-operation with Dillons, invites readers to an evening with Lady Thatcher. Following the success of her first Times/Dillons forum, when she spoke about *The Downing Street Years*, Lady Thatcher will now turn her attention to the years leading up to her premiership. She will discuss her childhood in Grantham, the profound influence of her father, her marriage to Denis, her early career as a politician and her determined rise to power. She will also give characteristically forthright opinions on some of the century's leading political figures. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and will offer those attending the opportunity to question Lady Thatcher.

The forum will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 13 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each (concessions, £7.50) and are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

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'There is no doubt that as a Church we are going through turbulence'

Country cleric chosen to become the next Bishop of St Albans

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A COUNTRY clergyman has been plucked from obscurity to head one of the most important dioceses in the Church of England.

The Ven Christopher Herbert, Archdeacon of Dorking, Surrey, is to become Bishop of St Albans, succeeding one of the Church's most respected elder statesmen, the Right Rev John Taylor, who retires later this year.

He said he was immensely surprised although he was aware that his was on the list of names of those considered suitable for elevation.

He pledged to give a strong moral lead in his diocese and fight for Christian values. Society should return to traditional values based on Christian concepts such as "love God" and "love thy neighbour", he said. Canon Herbert said he had a "passion for evangelism" and defined him-

self as a "central, open-minded, orthodox Anglican".

Canon Herbert, 51, who was born in the Forest of Dean and whose mother was a journalist, graduated from the University of Wales in Lampeter and then studied at Wells and Bristol. He has written 13 books on prayer and spirituality for adults and children. His wife Jan is an English teacher.

He said of the invitation to be the next Bishop of St Albans: "It's a massive task and a very humbling one."

"There is no doubt that as a Church we face a challenging future. We are going through a period of turbulence, but I believe that the energy, expertise and will are there at all levels in the Church to turn the problems we face into opportunities."

He said the Church was no longer in a privileged position. The answer to getting the

message across was not to "cheapen the truths we're trying to convey". The Church must speak out on social issues, he said. "Where society is neither fair nor just, the Church must not be afraid to say so."

The appointment of a man who, albeit a prolific author on prayer and spirituality, does not belong to the General Synod and is little known in the Church at large, was greeted by surprise but welcomed yesterday.

The Bishop of Hertford, the Right Rev Robin Smith, a suffragan to the Bishop of St Albans, said: "Everything I hear about him fills me with a sense of gratitude and excited anticipation. As an archdeacon, he is one of the people who run the Church of England. As a bishop he will have to forget how to manage and learn how to lead." The ap-

pointment was also welcomed as imaginative in a Church facing the appointment of many new bishops over the coming few years as the bulge of post-war and 1960s ordinands approach retirement.



Canon Herbert and his wife Jan at St Albans after news of his appointment

This year alone the Crown Appointments Commission must decide on new appointments for London, Winchester, Derby and Portsmouth. If

one or more of those goes, as expected, to another diocesan bishop, further vacancies will be created.

The resultant appointments are crucial because they are likely to involve the promotion of many formerly unknown clergymen, and the choices, made ultimately by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, will determine the

form of church leadership well into the next millennium. Canon Herbert succeeds two of the Church's most eminent leaders this century.

Bishop Taylor, one of 26 bishops in the House of Lords, who is also the Lord High Almoner, took over from Dr Robert Runcie, who went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 1980.

Learner drivers to sit exam on theory before practical test

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LEARNER drivers will have to answer written questions on the Highway Code, road safety and their attitudes towards other road users before being allowed to take a full driving test, the Government announced yesterday.

Candidates sitting the new half-hour written examination from July next year will have to tick the correct answer to 35 questions. Each question will have four possible responses.

At least 600 multiple choice questions have been prepared for 20 different papers chosen at random to prevent cheating. They will cover 12 out of a possible 14 topics.

The test, which will probably have to be taken at further education colleges, will cost between £10 and £15 on top of the £28.50 for the practical test. Those who pass will be expected to take their practical test within two years.

The test brings Britain in line with the rest of the European Union and marks the biggest change to the driving test since it was introduced 60 years ago. About 750,000 people are expected to sit the new exam, which replaces the theory element at the end of the present test, within its first year.

Steve Norris, the Roads Minister, said the exam, the latest phase of the Government's campaign to cut the accident rate among young drivers, would make newly qualified motorists more aware of hazards once they discarded their L-plates.

"For drivers of all ages inexperience is the most significant factor in accidents," he said. "In having to prepare for a theory test, people will become better drivers."

The test will be at a level to allow people with low standards of literacy to understand the questions. There will also be tests in Welsh and the main ethnic minority languages. Tests for people with

special needs such as reading difficulties or physical disabilities are being considered. Pass levels have not yet been set.

The proposed exam was welcomed by BSM, the driving instruction company. "No one currently fails their driving test by incorrectly answering the six questions at the end," Richard Glover, BSM's managing director, said. "The Highway Code is too often read the night before and never looked at again."

However, the planned exam was condemned as cumbersome and irrelevant by motoring organisations. "We are disappointed that the Government has taken what is the cheapest option," said Andrew Howard, of the AA, which wanted the theory test to be based on a computerised "hazard awareness" system.

Edmund King, of the RAC, said it also opposed the planned written test. "There is no evidence to suggest that a written test produces better drivers," Mr King said. He urged the Government to introduce lessons in safe driving to form part of the national curriculum.

Mr Norris said that a computer-based or video-based interactive test had been ruled out at this stage by cost and because the benefits were not proven. "At least in the early years we have settled on the tried and tested method of paper and pencil," he said. The impact of the new test on accident rates would be closely monitored and if it proved inadequate would be changed accordingly.

The test will be operated by a private organisation with experience in running examinations but with no interests in driver training. Bidders must submit formal tenders to the Department of Transport by November with the winning bidder being selected in January.

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

What does this sign mean?

☐ no footpath ahead
☐ pedestrians only ahead
☐ pedestrian crossing ahead
☐ school crossing ahead

You are towing a trailer on a motorway. What is your maximum speed limit?

☐ 60mph
☐ 40mph
☐ 50mph
☐ 70mph

You are at a road junction, turning into a minor road. There are pedestrians crossing the minor road. You should

☐ stop and wave the pedestrians across.
☐ sound your horn to let the pedestrians know you are there.
☐ give way to pedestrians who are already crossing.
☐ carry on, the pedestrians should give way to you

You are carrying two children and their parents in your car. Who is responsible for seeing that the children wear seat belts?

☐ the children's parents are responsible
☐ you are
☐ the front seat passenger is responsible
☐ the children are

You are testing your suspension. You notice that your vehicle continues to bounce when you press down on the front wings. What does this mean?

☐ worn tyres
☐ tyres under-inflated
☐ steering wheel not located centrally
☐ worn shock absorbers

Answers: 1 pedestrian crossing ahead, 2 give way to pedestrians who are already crossing, 3 60mph, 4 you are, 5 worn shock absorbers

Pacific sponge could yield cancer drug

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CAMBRIDGE scientists have found a way of reproducing an anti-cancer chemical found in Pacific Ocean sponges. It will now be tested as a potential cancer drug.

Dr Ian Paterson said that the chemical was produced by algae that lived in symbiosis with the sponges. "They are used as a kind of chemical defence by the sponge," he said. "The sponge provides the algae with a home and in return they make chemicals which repel predators."

Japanese researchers found in 1990 that one of the

chemicals, called swinholid A, showed anti-cancer properties in laboratory experiments. Large-scale extraction of the chemical was impracticable because tons of sponges would have yielded only a few milligrams.

The Cambridge team is the first to find a way of synthesising it in the laboratory. The next stage will be to make a range of similar chemicals and test whether their anti-cancer performance is better. The ultimate objective would be a new range of cancer drugs.

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'Forces compromised by MoD failings'



Clark: MoD waste is national disgrace

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

A CATALOGUE of incompetence and error by the Ministry of Defence has jeopardised Britain's capacity to defend itself, the National Audit Office says in a report published today.

The nation's 25 largest defence equipment orders are running an average of more than three years late and are massively over budget, according to the NAO's annual "major projects report". It shows that nine out of ten such orders have failed or are likely to fail to meet their original delivery dates. The average delay is now 37 months and five projects are already more than five years late.

If the two largest projects, Trident and Eurofighter 2000,

are removed from the equation, the remaining 23 projects are £645 m... over their forecast budgets. Although Trident is now forecast to come in under budget, Eurofighter alone accounts for a further £1,129 million projected overspend.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said:

"When will the financial incompetence of the MoD end? It is no surprise that the MoD has been renamed the Ministry of Waste. It is a national disgrace that the MoD should be throwing away billions of pounds of taxpayers' money. Financial incompetence and unjustified extravagance appear to be the order of the day. When the Government is supposed to be putting the front line first, how can it permit such waste through

cost overruns and late in-service dates?"

Sir John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, says that much of the overspend is due to "over-optimistic" cost estimates by the MoD. Delays in getting projects in service are said to be caused by "unforeseen technical difficulties".

The report found that Britain's defences are being jeopardised by:

- A delay of more than six years to the Spearfish torpedo, which has led to the Tigerfish torpedo being deployed way beyond its planned life.
- A five-year delay to the EH101 Merlin helicopter, which has led to its predecessor, the Sea King helicopter, being kept in service beyond its original approval.
- The four-year delay in in-

roducing the Bowman radio system has left the services with the Clansman system, which is based on 1960s technology, "vulnerable to electronic counter measures" and unable to provide secure voice and data requirements.

□ Delays to the Replacement Type 23 frigate command system has led to ships exceeding the maximum times spent at sea and resulted in "significant military risk".

□ Delays on Eurofighter, now 24 months late, have meant the life of the Jaguar and Tornado F3 aircraft having to be extended beyond original intentions. The report says that neither aircraft is sufficiently effective in its role. The NAO now plans a separate study of the delays and cost problems associated with Eurofighter.

The delays to these and other projects have also led to additional costs associated with the retention of older and less capable equipment than originally planned.

The largest overspends occur in the Eurofighter project. Other large overspends occur on the Spearfish torpedo, which is £180 million over budget, and the EH101 Merlin helicopter, which is £140 million over budget.

The MoD says that it is countering the problem of over-optimistic cost estimates by introducing a new three-point plan to identify risks earlier and indicate areas of uncertain expenditure.

The all-party Commons Public Accounts Committee is due to question defence officials on the delays and overspends next month.

Bitter fight will put Lib-Lab links in peril

By-elections are no longer about whether the governing party loses — it invariably does — but more about which opposition party wins. The Tories are generally expected to come third both in Perth and Kinross tomorrow and in Saddleworth, probably in a couple of months. (The Down North contest on June 15 will be very different.)

Bad Tory results in both by-elections will confirm an already gloomy picture. The Government is very unpopular and by-elections are an ideal way for voters to protest. That pattern could continue for some time, and is no pointer to the general election. The Tories lost two by-elections only five months before the 1992 election, when they won back both seats.

The real question is whether Labour or the Liberal Democrats gain most. So far this Parliament, the run of vacancies in Tory held seats has favoured the Liberal Democrats, in Newbury, Christchurch and Eastleigh. Labour has only had the chance to gain Dudley West. The Scottish Nationalists were close behind the Tories in Perth in 1992 and should win easily. But will the big Labour push enable it to come up from a poor third

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

place to a strong second? The by-election in Littleborough, on the edge of the Pennines, could have more lasting national importance. Geoffrey Dickens had a wide populist appeal, and was one of the few Tories in the north-west to raise his share of the vote in 1992, up more than one percentage point to 44 per cent. He had a guileless, even if at times blundering, charm, as well as personal courage in his final fight against cancer, as he showed in Sunday's television programme about the whips recorded before his death.

The other unusual feature in 1992 was that Littleborough was one of the few seats where the Liberal Democrats advanced at the expense of Labour. Chris Davies, the well-entrenched Liberal Democrat candidate, raised his party's share of the vote by nearly five points to 36 per cent, while the Labour share dropped by six points to 29 per cent. At the local elections on May 4 the Liberal Democrats took 46.5 per cent, against 32.5 per cent for Labour and 21 per cent for the Tories. The Liberal Democrats obviously start as favourites.



Labour, while content to be the underdog at this stage, is not prepared to concede the seat. The contest matters not only in itself but also for broader relations between the parties.

They have fought each other furiously in the North West, particularly in Liverpool, Oldham, Pendle and Rochdale, where Cyril Smith, and now Liz Lynne, have been hard pressed by Labour. Liberal Democrats there dislike all talk of friendly

links with Labour and the feeling is reciprocated. But, nationally, Paddy Ashdown and his allies are seeking to open the door to co-operation with Labour, while Tony Blair has been careful not to close the door on his side. He has talked of reaching out beyond Labour. It is delicate for both parties: meetings of minds and discussions, for example, about how to achieve devolution rather than any hint of pacts or deals. Any moves are

fraught with difficulty. Mr Ashdown is planning to take a further step soon with a strategy paper abandoning equidistance between the other parties and in effect ruling out backing for the Tories after the next election. The local election results encouraged such co-operation since both parties gained from the Tories, but the Liberal Democrats lost ground in many places to Labour.

could set back hopes of future co-operation. Attacks during the campaign leave a mood of recrimination and reinforce the belief of some Liberal Democrats that they can thrive on their own. That may force Mr Ashdown to be more cautious. The Littleborough by-election could affect the balance of opposition politics more than the fate of the Major Government.

Labour struggles to raise hope of Perth victory

JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR dismissed suggestions yesterday that the "Blair bubble" had burst in Perth and Kinross, claiming that the party could still win the by-election tomorrow.

Douglas Alexander, the Labour candidate, wrote to floating voters suggesting that the gap was narrowing by the day. However, an ICM poll for The Scotsman and Scottish Television shows the reverse with the gap between Labour and the Tories widened by four points since a similar poll on Monday.

The latest poll puts the SNP on 55 per cent, 34 points ahead of Labour. The Tories are still in third place on 14 points and the Liberal Democrats are on 10.

Mr Alexander told the voters in his letter: "Labour can win in Perth and Kinross. It is now clear that the Tories will not win." Nevertheless, Labour's apparent failure to boost its vote significantly was causing some soul-searching yesterday. A poor showing tomorrow will cast doubt on the party's ability to win support in the rural Scottish heartlands.

Labour was never really expected to win Perth and Kinross. The last Labour victory in a Scottish rural seat was Cathness and Sutherland in 1965. But Tony Blair, the party leader, has mounted a high-profile by-election campaign as a means of pushing new Labour throughout Scotland.

He has visited the constituency twice in the past two weeks to emphasise that new Labour does not recognise no-go areas and that its message for Middle England is entirely relevant to Middle Scotland. Party sources believe that if Labour gains 25 to 30 per cent

of the vote tomorrow — more than double its 1992 result — it can make huge in-roads in areas such as Inverness, Dumfries, Stirling and Ayr at the next election.

Mr Alexander has been the ideal vehicle for Mr Blair's message. He is articulate and well-versed in Blairism, having been a speech writer for Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor. He also appears to go down well on the doorstep and at public rallies in the constituency.

Party officials are baffled by the polls, claiming that private telephone canvassing shows much stronger support for Labour. People appear to be turning to the nationalists for two reasons: as a protest to get rid of the Tories, who could be pushed into fourth place, and as a patriotic vote. The polls, however, show that more than half those intending to vote SNP do not want an independent Scotland, the mainstay of SNP policy.

□ General election, 1992: Sir N Fairbairn (C), 20,195; R Cunningham (SNP), 18,101; M J Rolfe (Lab), 6,267; M Black (LD), 5,714. C maj: 2,094.

IN PARLIAMENT
YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to education ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by government statements on new rules for cross-media ownership and the clearance of bids for VSEL. Mr Blair delivered the Criminal Justice Bill, second reading, in the Lords: debates on the Jobseekers Bill, Land Registers (Scotland) Bill and Prisoners (Remission) Bill. TODAY in the Commons: from 10am, debates on Anglo-German relations, tobacco and alcohol smuggling and the York carriages works debate. From 2.30pm, questions to Scottish ministers followed by a Labour-initiated debate on "social division and low pay" and a debate on calls for early devolution of select committee papers relating to the Maxwell affair. In the Lords: debates on the future government of Scotland, the Insurance Companies (Reserve) Bill, report stage, and the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Bill, second reading.



Forger-Me-1 Not

Mirjana was gang-raped by seven men who had once been friends of her family. How much longer before you join us?

Mirjana comes from the town of Novi-Grad, in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. In June 1992, she and three other women from her street were kidnapped and repeatedly gang-raped by seven men.

Although to protect her identity we have used neither Mirjana's real name nor her actual photograph, her attackers know exactly who she is. Before the fighting tore the community apart, they were her neighbours.

Mirjana and the other women are Serbs who were raped by Croats, apparently because the men believed that elsewhere a group of Serbian men had raped Croatian women.

The men have a fancy name for their gang, the 'Fire Horses'. That month, another woman reported to police that she had been raped by a group of drunken men calling themselves by that name.

Instead of investigating the rape, the police arrested her on suspicion of carrying arms.

Thousands of women have been raped in Bosnia, most of them Muslims. However, as Mirjana's case shows, soldiers from all sides have become rapists.

In Bosnia, as in many other parts of the world, women are in double jeopardy. Discriminated against as women, they're more likely than men to have their human rights ignored and violated.

Often they become innocent victims of revenge attacks because unarmed women make easier targets than armed men. It is sickening. And what is more sickening is that governments and others who could do something to stop it accept these atrocities as the inevitable corollaries of war. They're not. If politicians of all nations had the decency, the will and the courage to speak out, such things would stop happening. We have to keep reminding them of this.

Amnesty International works tirelessly all over the world to safeguard people's human rights. Ours are often the only voices that bother to protest at all, so cynical has the world become.

What about you? Are you a cynic? Or are you willing to do something that will genuinely help innocent people who find themselves in deep and terrifying trouble? We are not always successful, but the more supporters we have, the more successful we will be.

Please join us, but do it today, because for someone somewhere, tomorrow will be always be too late. Please pick up your pen. Do it now.

Today is Wednesday. How many more days, how many more cases, before you join us?

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Oklahoma purges skyline of city's tragic monument

FROM TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

THE BUILDING that had become a monument to America's worst act of terrorism vanished from the Oklahoma City skyline yesterday.

At exactly 7am, the ripple of 220 explosive charges brought the Alfred Murrah Building thudding to the ground in a cloud of rubble and dust.

For the hundreds of Oklahomans who had come to watch, it was a time for tears and a symbolic end to the nightmare that began last month when a fertiliser bomb ripped through the building, killing 167 people, including 19 children, and maiming dozens more. Now the city had lost its most vivid scar and the long process of healing could begin.

Ken Thompson had not slept the previous night. The body of his mother Virginia, 56, was still inside when the

teams of demolition experts planted their sticks of dynamite.

"I think it's going to be OK now. It sounds strange but this is a joyful occasion for us," said Mr Thompson as he watched the nine floors collapse like pancakes before the awkward shape of the rear lift shaft teetered and then fell in their midst. "We all have faith that they will try to recover our mother and that's what matters. I think that what has happened here today is an exorcism of evil for us, for our state, and for the whole of America."

Mrs Thompson had started work for the credit union in January. A colleague, Christy Rosas, 22, was still missing in the rubble while rescuers also hoped to find the body of Alvin Justus, 54. He is thought to

have been a customer at their offices on the morning of the blast on April 19.

The trio had been trapped in a section that was too dangerous for an earlier search. Instead, the area has been sprayed with orange paint and covered with tarpaulin. In the next three weeks, 4,500 tonnes of debris will be removed from the site and firemen hope they will find the remaining bodies.

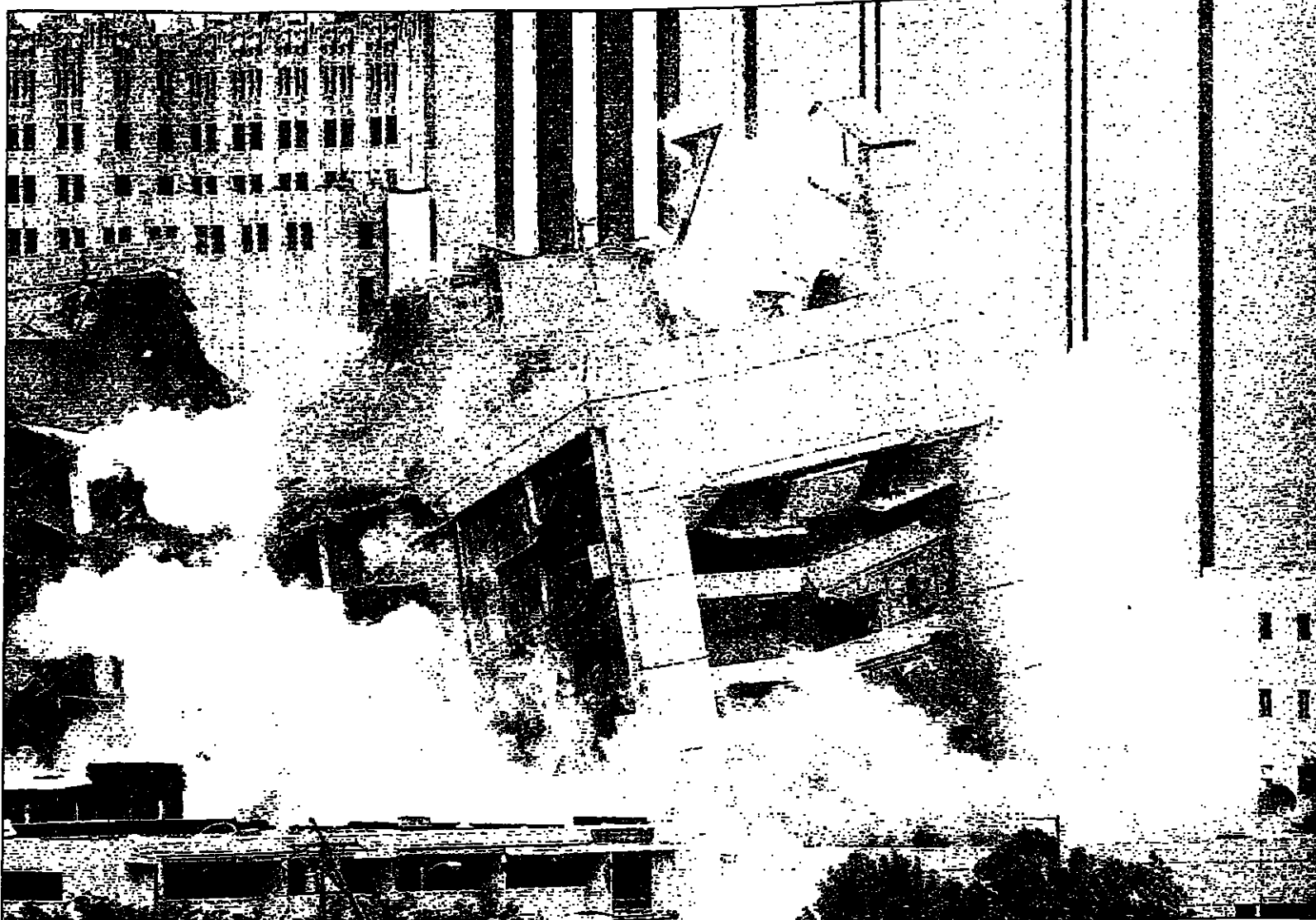
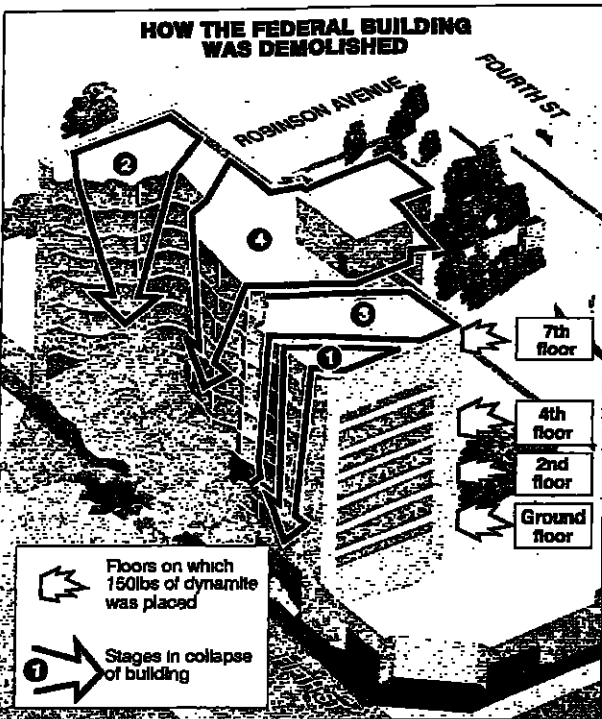
It was an emotional moment, not just for the families of the victims and the survivors, but also for the teams of volunteers who had spent weeks digging through the building.

Doug Loizeaux, vice-president of Controlled Demolition Incorporated, cried as his handywork created a perfect implosion. More than 150lbs of explosive had been placed strategically to create a progressive collapse. "Normally there is a sort of carnival atmosphere when we do this. People are interested in our expertise," he said. "This time, it was so solemn. There was a sense of terrible sadness combined with the realisation that, for everyone's sake, we had to get this done as quickly as possible."

Funds continued to pour into Oklahoma yesterday, including a \$10,000 (£6,000) donation from the figure skater, Nancy Kerrigan, who said she wanted to help educate those who had lost their families in the bombing.

However, the FBI trail for the bombers may have gone cold. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the two men charged with the bombing, are in custody.

But James Nichols, the brother from Michigan who was thought to have been involved in the plot, has been released. Other leads have come to nothing.



The Alfred Murrah Building in Oklahoma, the scene last month of America's worst terrorist attack, collapses in a controlled explosion yesterday

Man charged over death of Gerulaitis

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A MECHANIC who installed a heater under the house in which tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis died of carbon monoxide poisoning last September has been charged with criminally negligent homicide.

Gerulaitis, 40, was found dead in a poolside guest cottage belonging to a friend in the resort town of Southampton on Long Island. The mechanic, Bart Torpey, 35, faces a maximum sentence of up to four years in prison.

Judge removes butler as executor of \$1.2bn estate

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE pony-tailed former butler to Doris Duke, the tobacco heiress, has been removed as an executor of her \$1.2 billion (£764 million) estate by a Manhattan judge who described the Irish-born Bernard Lafferty as a profligate, illiterate drunk who has squandered hundreds of thousands of dollars from the estate of his late employer.

Duke died in October 1993 at the age of 80, and Monday's decision to sack Mr Lafferty came after months of wrangling over the legacy of the woman once held to be "the richest girl in the world". The court has yet to rule on the validity of a will, which left the bulk of her fortune to charity but awarded Mr Lafferty \$5 million as co-executor and an annual stipend of \$500,000. The will has been chal-

lenged by Duke's former doctor, who claims the aged heiress was coerced into signing it and was befuddled by drugs. The butler has also been accused of conspiring with other doctors to hasten



Duke: once known as the world's richest girl

his employer's death with a lethal overdose of morphine. Judge Eve Preminger noted that immediately after Duke's death Mr Lafferty, who began working for the American Tobacco Company heiress in 1986, moved into her house and travelled the world in a private Boeing 737 jet and chauffeured Cadillac.

Mr Lafferty enjoyed a "profligate lifestyle", while showing "a cavalier attitude towards money", the judge said. His reckless behaviour disqualified him, the judge concluded, citing his taste for expensive jewellery, antique furniture and designer clothes as well as his drinking binges and use of anti-depressants. The court also removed the United States Trust Company as co-executor, saying it should have limited his spending.

Congress to honour Agnew

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

CONGRESS will honour one of the capital's most notorious crooks today at a cost of \$30,000 to the taxpayer.

The Senate will unveil a bust, sculpted from Italian marble, of Spiro Agnew, Vice-President to Richard Nixon and the first man forced to resign that office in disgrace.

Vice-Presidents are also Senate presidents, and entitled to have their busts placed outside the Senate chamber if they ask. Mr Agnew has done so, and will attend tonight's ceremony, but it remains to be seen what kind words Senator Ted Stevens, chairman of the Rules and Administration Committee, will find to say.

Mr Agnew was forced from office after the Attorney-General accused him of bribery and extortion.

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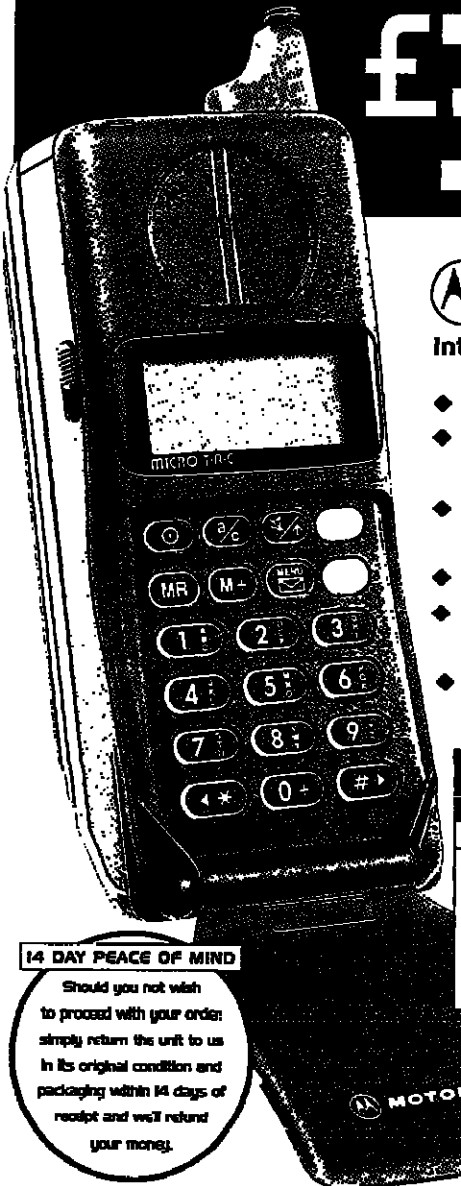
APR: variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the mortgage rate applicable during the fixed rate period (which will run from the end of the month of completion of the mortgage) will apply for the full term of the loan. However, from 1.6.98, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 18.5.95 and the mortgage completed by 30.9.95. Typical example: based on an endowment mortgage interest rate of 7.49% and a purchase price of £120,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £50,000 over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 50% of the Society's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £374.50 per month gross (£300 payments). Accrued interest £187.25. Value's fee £190. Application fee £295. Solicitor's mortgage charges £100. Deeds Administration Fee payable on redemption £50 and a single repayment of capital of £50,000. Total amount payable £173,172.25. 7.49% APR. The example assumes the mortgage starts in the middle of the month, a minimum guaranteed death benefit

of £50,000 and a term of 25 years for the endowment policy. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For loans other than repayment loans, a suitable endowment policy, PEP or pension plan will also be required. A suitable level term assurance policy will also be required for PEP or pension plan mortgages. An indemnity policy, for which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%. If the Mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another scheme before 1.6.2000, a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest of the rate payable at the time of redemption will be charged. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from any branch or from Woolwich Building Society, Dept 15, Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7ER. The Woolwich Building Society represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business.

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FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

The only other way to restrict length of service on Capitol Hill is by passing an amendment to the US Constitution, which would require a two-thirds vote in both Houses, followed by approval from 38 of the 50 states. This is a seemingly impossible hurdle. A recent Republican effort to pass term limits in the House failed to muster the

New Gingrich, the Republican Speaker, asked voters to send 60 more Republicans to Washington in next year's congressional elections, to give him the majority needed to get the measure through. The Senate's Republican leader, Robert Dole, promised a term limits vote in the Senate "soon," but was vague about the date. The Term Limits Leadership Council, a group lobbying for the measure, accused the Supreme Court of

Justice John Paul Stevens, speaking for the court's moderate majority, said state-imposed restrictions would be contrary to the fundamental principles of democracy. "The people should choose whom they please to govern them," he said. Justice Clarence Thomas, in an opinion for the conservative minority, wrote that nothing in the Constitution deprives the people of each state from deciding the rules of eligibility of those who seek to represent them in Congress.

History is on the side of the majority verdict. In framing the Constitution in 1787, the Founding Fathers rejected a rotation system that would have forced law-makers to step aside after several terms. The latest ruling does not affect state legislatures, where term limits can be imposed



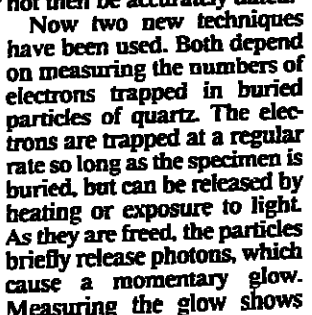
FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

Waiban Ibrahim al-Takriti's removal came days after he was reported to have been the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt in Baghdad. It was the second reported attempt on one of President Saddam's closest aides in as many months. His eldest son and heir apparent, Uday, was said to have been badly wounded in an ambush. The Iraqi leader announced on his 58th birthday last month the formation of a new presidential guard, the Lions of Saddam.

Mr al-Takriti's removal was seen as the result of his rivalry with Uday, whose newspaper, *Babel*, has attacked his ministry and the police for failing to control a crime wave that has grown with the five-year-old United Nations sanctions.

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

Dr Alan Thorne, head of the Department of Prehistory at the Australian National University in Canberra, said yesterday: "It had been used to grind red powder. The only



Some European and American archaeologists remain sceptical. When Dr Jones reported some of the results at a conference in San Francisco recently, Dr Richard Klein of Stanford University said: "Similar haematite fragments have been found in many Neanderthal sites and sites of comparable age in Africa without evidence of art."

Dr Chris Stringer, an expert in human evolution at the Natural History Museum in London, said that red ochre is common in sites from about 100,000 years ago. "The evidence for these Australian dates has been growing for the past few years. But it is only a surprise if you think that art was invented in Europe 40,000 years ago, and most of us no longer think that."

Until now, the first evidence of art dates from around 35,000 years ago in Europe, and the tradition of cave paintings reached a full flowering about 17,000 years ago, the date of the recently discovered cave in the Ardèche region of France which is full of images of animals.

If early Australians were really painting 60,000 years ago, it means that modern humans may have evolved independently in different

Genetic studies and the fossil record suggest that modern man evolved in Africa 140,000 years ago, reached Europe 50,000 years ago, and did not set foot in Australia for another 10,000 years. If the new dates can be sustained, says Dr Klein, "it will force an enormous amount of rethinking".

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President's surprise move loads the electoral dice in his favour as support weakens

Yeltsin veto risks crisis in Duma and threatens poll

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday jeopardised Russia's general elections planned for this year when he vetoed a key electoral Bill and triggered a political crisis with parliament.

In a move which surprised and angered leading Russian politicians, Mr Yeltsin rejected proposed legislation setting out the rules for future parliamentary elections. The Duma, the Lower House of parliament, had passed the Bill which proposed that half of the 450 deputies would be elected by party list, while the other half would be elected by regional constituencies.

The President said in a letter to Ivan Rybkin, the Speaker of Parliament, that he favoured a two-thirds, one-third breakdown in favour of the constituencies to make deputies more accountable to the electorate. He also opposed the Duma's decision to bar serving government officials from standing as parliamentary candidates.

The row is more than just a question of political semantics. Public support for Mr Yeltsin and his Government has been steadily eroding for months to the point where his supporters face defeat at the

general elections and he faces a tough re-election campaign in polls due next year.

However, through a system of patronage the President still maintains powerful supporters among regional governors, factory bosses and bureaucrats who can often play a deciding role in the success or failure of candidates standing in the provinces. In contrast, populist parties, like Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, which won a third of the seats in the last elections, do better under the party list system.

"The dispute over the election Bill is another crossroads at which the head of state chose the worst path," said Viktor Sheinis, a member of the liberal Yabloko faction. "The [future] legislature will reflect only the interests of the ruling elite rather than the people."

Democrats, communists and nationalist Duma members promised to fight the presidential veto, which many regarded as an attempt to load the election in favour of the newly-formed government party "Our Home is Russia" led by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister. "The

broad representation of districts will enable [Mr Chernomyrdin's] party of power to help its candidates at elections and give a free hand to the regional mafia," said Anatoli Lukyanov, a communist deputy and former chairman of the Soviet parliament.

Kremlin officials insisted that a compromise can still be reached in time for the elections. However, the Kremlin and Duma have only a few weeks to reach an accord. The new law must be passed by parliament and the President no later than August 12, four months before polling day.

"It is very hard to imagine a Duma majority accepting the President's proposals," said Vasilii Lipitskiy, a deputy in parliament. "The possibility that we will not have this law ready in August has greatly increased."

TV block: The Federation Council, Russia's Upper House of parliament, yesterday voted to suspend Mr Yeltsin's plans to privatise the country's main television channel. The Duma made the same decision last month. (AP)

Leading article, page 17



Russian troops fire an anti-tank missile during fighting at a cement plant in Chir-Yurt in the breakaway Caucasian republic of Chechnya

Chechens castrated Russian prisoners, says refugee

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWENTY-FIVE Russian soldiers captured by Chechen rebels were surgically castrated, according to Western intelligence sources yesterday.

The grim account of the fate that befell the Russians after being taken prisoner was revealed by a refugee medical worker who was in the civilian hospital where the soldiers were taken for treatment. Discounting the possibility that the report was

merely part of a black propaganda campaign, the intelligence sources said that the medical worker described in a debriefing how the soldiers had been castrated with professional precision. There was no sign of any battle wounds.

The brutal treatment of the Russians underlined the dangers facing the occupying forces as they attempt to crush the Chechen rebels.

Yesterday there was fierce fighting around the village of Banut, including Russian air attacks, despite the

prospect of peace talks which are due to begin tomorrow. The talks are being held between Chechen and Russian representatives under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe at its mission in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya.

However, General Dzokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, has apparently decided not to attend the peace talks. Salambek Khadzhiyev, the Moscow-appointed head of the new Chechen government, said

General Dudayev's name had not been included on a list of Chechen representatives for the talks.

The Inter-Tass news agency in Moscow said the Chechen delegation would be led instead by Usman Imaev, the prosecutor-general, who would have the right to negotiate an end to the five-month conflict in which thousands of people have died.

A Hungarian foreign ministry official had earlier said he was sure General Dudayev would turn up for the talks.

Bonn lets East's old spies go free

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN



Wolf argued that he was patriotic servant of East

MARKUS WOLF, the East German spy master, and his thousands of agents are likely to escape police investigations and prison sentences thanks to a Constitutional Court ruling that seeks to close the chapter on the era of Cold War espionage.

The court has decided by five votes to three that it was unjust for the united Germany to imprison spies who operated out of East German territory, since they had been acting in accordance with the law of their state. The judgment —

reached after four years of deliberation and justified in an 80-page document — ensures that Wolf, once regarded as the model of John Le Carré's sinister Karla, need not serve out his six-year jail sentence for espionage. He had not been jailed, pending the ruling. He had argued in his defence, and on behalf of his former agents, that he had merely been a patriotic servant of the East German state.

Ten convicted East German spies appealed for a pardon yesterday hours after the court's verdict. The issue of Germans who acted against West German interests, but in accordance with East German law, has dogged Bonn's attempts to make a final reckoning with the communist past.

Courts have found former communists guilty of only minor crimes or, as in the case of Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, freed them because of ill-health or old age. Most border guards who killed fugitives were convicted of murder, but were given light sentences.



Berlusconi: might be forced to sell stations

Berlusconi pulls out of TV talks

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the Italian media tycoon, yesterday pulled out of negotiations designed to forestall a referendum next month on concentration of television ownership.

The former Prime Minister's Forza Italia party and other political groups have been trying to find a legislative compromise that would stop the referendum taking place on June 11. Italians will be asked whether they want to revoke existing legislation on media ownership, paving the way for a new law that would probably oblige Signor Berlusconi to sell two of his three television stations.

He complained that the compromise mooted by the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and other parties of the Left and Centre would leave intact state ownership of the three channels of RAI, the public broadcasting corporation, while forcing him to sell off one of his channels at once and another within two years.

"Such a proposal would be unthinkable in a civilised country," Signor Berlusconi said. "It is as if Fiat or any other company had been ordered to reduce its productive capacity by a third and then by another third."

Signor Berlusconi has accused Italy's anti-corruption magistrates of trying to influence the referendum by requesting last weekend that he and some 20 other people be sent for trial on charges of alleged corruption of tax inspectors investigating the books of his Fininvest holding company.

Isolated Karadzic hints at starting Bosnia peace talks

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RADOVAN KARADZIC, the Bosnian Serb leader, has indicated that he may be ready to begin peace talks, saying the plan put forward last year by the five-nation Contact Group is not very different from Serb proposals and the two positions could be "harmonised".

His statement comes as he faces increasing isolation from Serbia, believed to be close to recognising Bosnia-Herzegovina. Diplomats and peace mediators were wary last night, however, of being too optimistic about a real change of heart by the Bosnian Serbs.

Dr Karadzic was quoted by Bosnian Serb radio as saying: "We would like the Security Council to know that we are ready to treat the Contact Group's plan as the basis for the resumption of the peace process." One diplomatic source said: "We have to look at the wording of this very carefully. He uses the word 'treat' and what he needs at least to do is 'accept' the plan as a basis."

The Contact Group proposed dividing Bosnia and giving 41 per cent to the Serbs and 51 per cent to the federation of Muslims and Croats. Their plan was rejected last July by the Serbs, who hold 70 per cent of the country after more than three years of war.

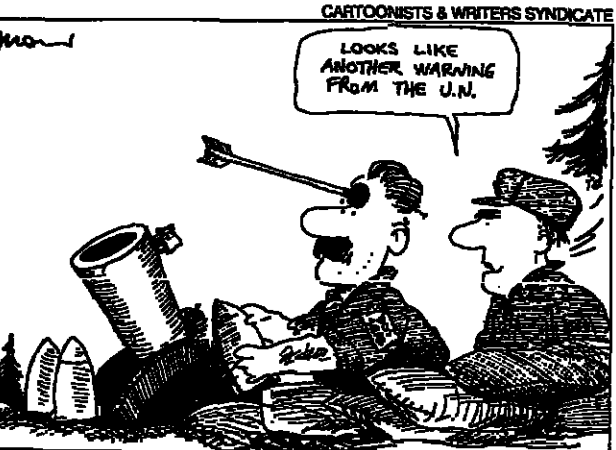
"The real problem is not the 51-49 per cent split: the real issue is sovereign status for the Serbs," said a Bosnian Serb spokesman. The Contact Group believes recognition of

Bosnia by President Milosevic of Serbia would weaken Dr Karadzic and shorten the war. However, diplomats and peace negotiators who said on Monday that Mr Milosevic was ready to recognise the republic, were more cautious last night. "It's 90 per cent done but there remain some differences over the sanctions package," one diplomatic source said.

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, meanwhile linked the continued presence of United Nations peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia to the Serbian recognition of Bosnia. He said of the campaign to persuade Belgrade to recognise Sarajevo: "If these latest efforts proved to be in vain, neither France nor its partners could for long maintain its peacekeepers."

The pressure on Dr Karadzic is being made even more intense because the armed Bosnian government army has launched increasingly successful assaults in different parts of Bosnia. Moreover, Serb troops are suffering from poor morale, shortage of food and a desperate lack of currency to cover their wages, according to Western intelligence sources yesterday.

In the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Orasje, in the north, the Serbs are known to be running out of artillery shells and are having to use tanks to maintain their defences.



Moir on Bosnia in the Sydney Morning Herald

Jobs take priority on Juppé agenda

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC's first administration promised new jobs, pay rises and a cut in public deficits before European monetary union. Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Giving details of policies aimed at restoring confidence to a nation battered by social division, M. Juppé, 49, said that the fight for jobs would be an overriding priority for his Gaullist-led Government. "The entire programme that I present today can be summed up by a single word: employment," he told the National Assembly.

Yet in an announcement largely inspired by M. Chirac's election manifesto, the Prime Minister also pledged a significant increase in the minimum wage and backed the principle of rises for private-sector workers. At the same time, he reaffirmed a commitment to European union that critics had cast doubt on during the presidential election campaign, telling deputies that France would be ready for the single currency by 1999.

The cut in public deficits required by the Maastricht treaty would be undertaken despite pledges that involve building houses and welfare reform, he said. There was no question of ending the policy of "franc fort", he added, in response to last week's rumours that M. Chirac might seek a devaluation to relaunch the economy.

At the heart of yesterday's announcement were a series of measures to relieve the huge tax burden on industry, driving a jobsless total that stands at 3,827,300. Under the proposals, companies who take on low-wage workers will be exonerated from paying social security contributions that are among the highest in Europe. A promise to build 10,000 homes for the ever-increasing numbers of homeless is also likely to prove costly, as will commitments to increase the state pension and introduce a new child support allowance.

M. Juppé did not say how he intended to finance his programmes, although there is little doubt that difficult decisions lie ahead. M. Chirac indicated during the election campaign that VAT would probably have to rise.

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Lung fungus left iceman gasping

FROM GILES WHITTILL
IN LOS ANGELES

EUROPE'S 5,300-year-old "iceman" may have collapsed and died on a lonely Alpine pass because his lungs were assailed by a fungus.

A tiny sample of lung tissue from the iceman, discovered in 1991 preserved in ice near the Otztal valley in Austria, was sent to a Californian laboratory for DNA analysis. Scientists found traces of a fungus that could have left the iceman gasping for breath in what became his

tomb, 10,000ft above sea level near the Italian border.

The iceman, also known as Similaun man after a ridge near where he was found, and *Homo tyrolensis*, is the best-preserved Bronze Age corpse found in Europe.

Ever since two climbers stumbled on his legs emerging from a glacier, experts have argued over his age, the reason for his perilous final journey and the manner of his death. This latest finding by Dr Raul Cano, of the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo,

adds weight to theories that his body had already been weakened by disease.

A search for further evidence yielded a finger nail. Analysis of keratin levels suggested that the iceman was stricken by a chronic infectious illness four months before he died, scientists said last year.

The DNA pattern found in the lung tissue by Dr Cano bears a genetic resemblance to a modern fungus, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, which often attacks those ill with other diseases.

China gives US ultimatum over Taiwanese visit

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PEKING yesterday demanded that Washington should withdraw its visa for the President of Taiwan to visit the United States next month or face a serious deterioration in relations.

Qian Qichen, China's Foreign Minister, summoned J. Stapleton Roy, the US Ambassador, and accused the United States of "conspiring to create two Chinas" by allowing President Lee Teng-hui to visit his alma mater, Cornell University, to receive an honorary degree and deliver a speech.

The permission, granted by President Clinton at the weekend under pressure from the Republican-dominated Congress, reverses a policy of excluding senior Taiwan officials from the United States that began in 1979 when Washington recognised the present Chinese Government.

Although Winston Lord, the US Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said in Hong Kong last week that such a "visit" was given on a "strictly private basis", does not represent a change in policy, the decision to approve Mr Lee's visit marks a serious diplomatic defeat for Peking.

How serious became clearer yesterday when Nicholas Burns, of the US State Department, refused to rule out future meetings between Mr Lee and members of Congress, on the ground that any contact would be "unofficial".

Peking has described the American move as "an extremely serious act of brazenly creating 'two Chinas', that damages China's sovereignty and undermines its cause for peaceful reunification. Not only will Sino-US relations not develop, they may regress."

Relations are already so poor that when Mr Clinton met President Jiang Zemin this month in Moscow for ceremonies to mark the war-time victory over Germany, the two men did not speak.

Mr Clinton's U-turn, while reflecting American frustration over such issues as China's human rights record, arms sales to the Middle East and copyright piracy, also represents a pragmatic reassessment of economic and domestic political realities.

Taiwan is America's fifth largest trading partner and is regarded by many in Congress and the White House as

his pleasure over Mr Clinton's decision, which he said would improve relations between the two countries. The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital, also hailed the news.

Mr Clinton's decision to admit Mr Lee, and effectively to abandon his previous strategy of trying to develop a strong relationship with Peking, has won him bipartisan congressional praise.

Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Mr Lee was "a bold democratic reformer and refusing him entry would have been an insult".

Earlier this month the Senate had approved by 97-1 a non-binding resolution urging Mr Clinton to reconsider his refusal to grant Mr Lee a visa.

"It's a reward for President Lee's efforts to move that country towards democracy," said Frank Murkowski, a Republican senator. Paul Simon, a Democratic senator, said he wanted the United States to maintain good relations with China, "but our policy shouldn't be dictated by another country".

China yesterday stepped up pressure on the pro-democracy movement before next month's sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, by arresting another dissident.

Jiang Qisheng, 47, who has signed two petitions calling for greater democracy, was detained, according to his wife. Twelve dissidents are known to have been arrested or to have disappeared in the past week. (AFP)



Qian: accused America of creating two Chinas

having made great strides towards democracy. This contrasts with Peking's record where, in the past week alone, another crackdown has been carried out on pro-democracy dissidents.

Yesterday Mr Lee expressed



A Cambodian Buddhist monk sprinkles holy water on a family as he walks past them in Phnom Penh yesterday. About 450 monks and 40 other walkers are taking part in a peace march through Cambodia and Vietnam. The event began in Auschwitz last month and ends in Hiroshima in August

Indian parties fight to get hands on symbol

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S two Congress parties, both claiming to be the real one, are fighting for possession of the country's most famous political symbol, the hand.

The stakes are high: the winner will be de facto heir to more than a century of history and decades of political power since independence in 1947. The

newly formed breakaway Congress party headed by N. D. Tiwari, a veteran politician from Uttar Pradesh, and Arjun Singh, a former Cabinet minister, is taking legal advice before asking the Election Commission to allocate the symbol of the hand.

With widespread illiteracy, all parties are allocated symbols for use at polling booths and in election campaigns. They

appear on ballot papers, and illiterate voters are allowed to vote with a thumbprint.

For years the hand has been instantly identifiable across India as the symbol of the Congress party. That headed by P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, will fight to keep it, but the Election Commission may ban either side from using it. That would boost the claim of the rebels that

they are the real thing. The Congress (Tiwari) party argues that the Election Commission allocated the hand to the Congress (I) party — the I stands for Indira, as in Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. The "I" was officially dropped from the name of Mr Rao's party two years ago because it was regarded as redundant. The breakaway Congress party officially calls itself Congress (I).



Peking tackled on UN women's venue

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations may have to find a new venue for its World Conference on Women, due to be held in Peking in September, unless the Chinese Government relents in trying to sideline the aid agencies that want to attend.

Oxfam said yesterday. Peking has ordered that the conference of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to be attended by more than 20,000 people, must be held at Huairou, 35 miles from the Chinese capital, making it almost impossible for the agencies to play their traditional role of lobbying at the UN event. The NGO Forum has given the Chinese and the

UN until today to "provide an acceptable alternative", said Eugenia Piza-Lopez, a senior policy adviser to Oxfam.

Hillary Clinton is due to attend the main conference but has reportedly said that she is not sure where it will be held and is no longer sure whether she will go.

The aid agencies are furious at being relegated to Huairou because only one public bus connects the town with Peking and the journey takes an hour and a half. The groups are also worried about telecommunications and living conditions for their forum. There are also no facilities for the disabled.

Congress sharpens axe for aid cuts

FROM IAN BRIDDE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS controlling the US Congress yesterday turned their knives on a foreign aid budget that most Americans think is bigger than it really is. They also want to eliminate three foreign affairs agencies and intervene in three difficult areas of the Clinton Administration's foreign policy.

In an effort to blunt the Republican offensive, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, wrote to President Clinton urging him to veto any Bill that reduces aid or impinges on foreign policy. He said that any such proposal would be "an extraordinary assault on the President's constitutional authority", which would also undermine American leadership in the world.

White House officials said Mr Clinton shares Mr Christopher's concerns, but wants to see the final Bill before deciding whether to use his veto.

At issue are the fundamentally opposing views of Republicans and Democrats over foreign aid. Overseas aid, which is the least popular item of government spending among voters, lies at the heart of the problem. Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is committed to ending to what he regards as the squandering of money abroad with nothing to show for it. He once said: "American taxpayers have spent two trillion dollars on aid programmes, much of that going down foreign rat-holes."

In fact, foreign aid consumes only 1 per cent of the federal budget: \$17.5 billion (£11 billion) this year. That is not the public perception, however. A poll by the University of Maryland found that respondents estimated that 18 per cent of the budget was allocated and that 8 per cent would be more appropriate.

Republicans want to cut foreign aid to more than 100 countries by as much as 15 per cent. Their Bill would abolish the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the United States Information Agency. Broadcasting by the Voice of America would be substantially reduced.

The Bill is also intended to reverse Mr Clinton's decision to send refugees back to Cuba; to cut aid to Russia if it sells nuclear reactors to Iran; and to ban any normalisation of relations with Vietnam until Hanoi accounts for the 1,600 US servicemen still missing after the Vietnam War.

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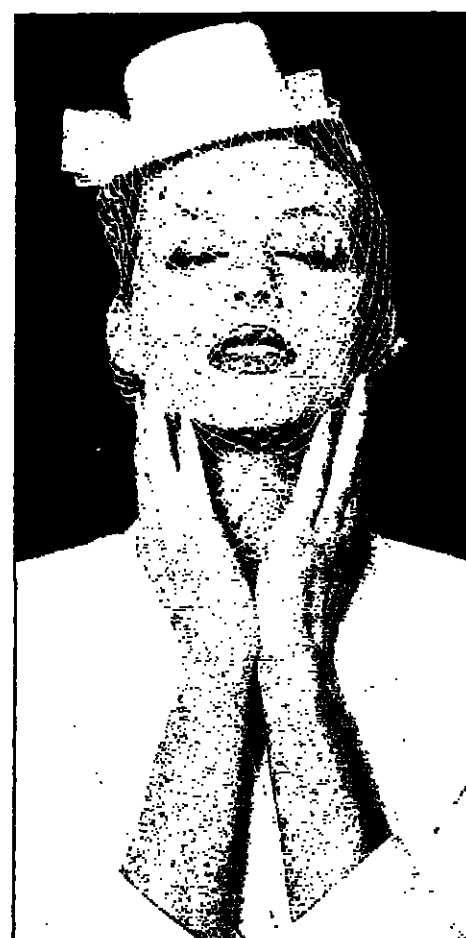
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The tuxedo, a constant classic

Following suit in top hat and trousers



ABOVE: Black/white striped straw top hat with black and white hat pins, to order, Emma Hill, 134 Lots Rd, London SW10; (0171-351 4333). Grey double-breasted pinstripe jacket, £920, matching trousers with turn-ups, £370, Yves Saint Laurent, Rive Gauche, 135 New Bond St, London W1.

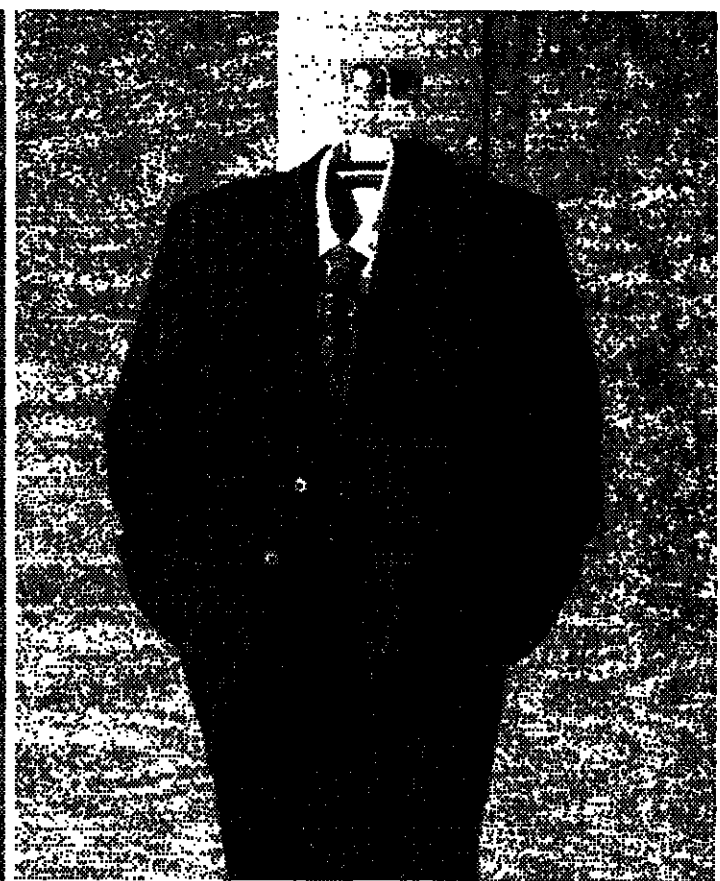
CENTRE: Black straw top hat, to order, Catherine Walker for The Chelsea Design Company, 65 Sydney St, London SW3; (0171-352 4626). Black double-breasted smoking jacket with satin lapels, £960, matching trousers with satin side stripes, £445, Yves Saint Laurent, as above. Black patent shoes, £55, Bertie, 36 South Molton St, London W1 and branches nationwide (0171-935 2002).

FAR LEFT: Ivory felt top hat with grosgrain bow, £245 approx, Frederick Fox, Harrods, London SW1; Harvey Nichols, London SW1. Ivory satin single-breasted trouser suit and matching halterneck waistcoat, £845, Dolce & Gabbana, Browns, 23-27 South Molton St, London W1.

LEFT: Ivory mini top hat with chiffon bow and fine veil, £75, to order, Stephen Jones (0171-734 9666). White crêpe double-breasted jacket, £155; matching trousers, £95, Liz Claiborne, Selfridges, Oxford St, London W1; Dickens & Jones, Regent St, London W1; Rackhams, 35 Temple Row, Birmingham; Kendalls, Deansgate, Manchester.

Photographs by JONATHAN BOOKALLIL
Hair by Gordon Pinder
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pierre cardin



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With so much talk about the return of ladylike looks, it seems that there is little else on offer this summer. But fashion is a business and designers always cover their backs. The flip side to this utterly feminine fashion story is an androgynous take on men's tailoring.

In complete contrast to the flirtatious mood of the skimpy shifts, the chic little dress-and-jacket suits and the cute cardigans, this excursion into the menswear arena is all about a stark silhouette.

Invariably monochromatic (the only colours which creep in are still a touch sombre — charcoal grey and midnight blue), the look evokes memories of old black and white movies: at Dolce & Gabbana the models, in their strictly tailored black tuxedo jackets and matching Oxford bags, wing-collared white shirts and black ties (held in place with silver and *diamanté* tie-clips) looked like Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Without shirt and tie, the streamlined suit against bare skin is somewhat more inviting.

Such an immaculate image requires precision tailoring. This is one area of fashion where the higher echelon designers have it completely sewn up. Unfortunately, it is rare to find quality tailoring with rock-bottom price tags. However, with the summer

sales looming, such a luxury can become a wise buy. A perfectly tailored black trouser suit will last a lifetime. This summer the white or ivory trouser suit (think Robert Redford as the Great Gatsby) is a favourite with designers as diverse as Martine Sitbon, Dolce & Gabbana, Ralph Lauren, Dries van Noten, Sonia Rykiel, Helmut Lang, Jil Sander, MaxMara and Giorgio Armani. On first sight



Fashion
— IAIN R. WEBB —

it may appear a frivolous purchase, but there are now few seasons which pass without a pale trouser suit featuring somewhere on the catwalks. It seems certain to become a constant classic and, cleaning bills aside, such an investment will undoubtedly prove money well spent.

One designer whose impeccable tailoring cannot be faulted is Yves Saint Laurent. There are few who can match his enduring rigour when it comes to shaping the line of a shoulder or cutting a back seam to curve with the body, not fight against it. This season Saint Laurent's le

smoking tuxedo suit, which is now as acceptable worn during daylight hours as it is seen after dark, is still a wonder to behold and a joy to wear. Alternatively, his gangster-style, grey chalk-stripe trouser suit, if a little less glossy, makes a sharp option.

For those who do not want to dress up like a former First Lady or a Hitchcock heroine, these slick suits are a perfect choice for smart social outings. Even Royal Ascot. Although there is a popular belief that any woman striding through Ascot's hallowed gates wearing trousers will be, if not turned on her heels, at the very least frowned upon. St James's Palace maintains that women have been allowed to wear trousers for years. The only ruling is that the trousers must be part of a formal suit which matches top and bottom and, naturally, the wearer must not forget a hat.

A top hat completes the outfit with a certain flair and finesse. Worn at a jaunty angle (it should tilt forwards on the head with a sideways slant) and trimmed with all manner of veiling, hat pins, feathers and bows, it is a far cry from the masculine image one might expect.

The final touches, to dispel any notion that such a bold look is for men only, are a pair of high-heeled strappy shoes and a flash of glossy red nail varnish on fingers and toes.

IF YOU

wear this summer's gossamer-fine fabrics, should you feature or disguise the under-pinnings? Eyecatching cover-ups work well when they are cut on the generous side, looking like a two-piece for the beach. Prada has bras at £113 and briefs at £122 at its Sloane Street store. Otherwise, an opaque, seamless, skin-toned foundation should be worn. Warner's has introduced Not So Innocent Nudes — bodies, briefs and bras in three skin tones: from £7 for a brief to £15 for a bra, at Fenwick's of New Bond Street. Sock Shops also have a "nude" underwear range from £5.99 for briefs.

● TO CELEBRATE its new membership of the Guild of Master Craftsmen, Wardrobe is holding a party at 3 Grosvenor Street, London W1, tomorrow at 6pm. The first six *Times* readers to phone 0171-629 7044 can join in. Guests will receive a pair of £12.99 Girardi tights.

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The wife who was jailed for lying about her husband's car crash was obeying an age-old maternal instinct to protect her brood — and her partner

CONNOISSEURS of social cliché have had a wonderful few days following the case of David and Patricia Whitehead and their bruising brush with justice. The Whiteheads score so many stereotypical Brownie points you get quite dizzy: churchgoers, running an office in a commuter village, he working at a hospital, she the Akela of the local Cub pack and mother of three angelic little boys: the car accident only happened because he was caring for his elderly parents to an Isle of Wight ferry. Hard to get more respectable.

Moreover, it was a motorcycle he collided with (bikers score pretty low on the middle-England indignation scale) and it was widely, and not quite accurately, reported that nobody was hurt and that it was nobody's fault. In fact the biker got a nasty ankle, and Mr Whitehead reportedly admitted: "I just didn't see him." Then he went home and

Crazy women who stand by their men

persuaded his wife to say she was driving. So a judge (another figure currently scoring low in public estimation) packed them off to prison without a thought for their small children.

The nation seethed loudly all weekend, culminating in the clarion call from *The Sun* for the judge himself to be locked up. On Monday three appeal judges set Mrs Whitehead free. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas made some stern noises about perverting the course of justice, but his heart clearly wasn't in it. Not with nice, gentle Mrs Whitehead thanking him politely for the community service order. He gently replied: "You are very welcome", which says it for us all. It was a silly decision to jail her.

But talking of silly decisions, what woman does not secretly empathise with the wife's original dilemma? This is a good citizen before she was sent down she said: "We knew lying to the police was very wrong and it is humiliating. I feel so ashamed and I believe in and everything I teach my kids and my Cub Scouts."

So why on earth did she go along with her husband's harebrained, hopeless lie? She wasn't even in the car, and there were several witnesses. His fear of losing his licence was apparently unfounded: even if he



LIBBY PURVES

had, there is a perfectly good railway station in Brockenhurst. The fear of losing his job can only have been a symptom of shock: he was not a professional driver. At such a moment a wife's logical role is to talk the man down, brace him up, and help him to do the George Washington bit when the police arrive.

But she didn't. She lived a lie for 17 terrible days. Terrible, because even though they did not expect prison no mother of young children enjoys being on the wrong side of the law. In that tender maternal phase, the last thing you want is to be an

outcast: you feel a very deep need to have society on your side. You are the opposite of a rebel. She must have hated every minute.

YET SHE did it, and she was not the first. Other women have told the same lie, or climbed across to the driving-seat after an accident when their men have been drinking. Countless wives and girlfriends have lied about their menfolk's violence ("I walked into a door"), about their drinking, even their abuse of the children. Police are familiar with the frustration of cases in which the only witness will not testify as to what really happened to the baby, or how the house caught fire. The law recognises the

tendency by allowing wives not to testify against husbands; but some, like Mrs Whitehead, take it further and produce alibis. We are like the chilling perjured heroine in *Witness for the Prosecution*, or E.M. Forster when he said that given a choice between betraying his country or his friend he hoped he would betray his country. Our loyalty is frighteningly complete.

It can't just be the desire to keep our breadwinner at liberty; not these days. It must be a warped maternal urge. We want at all costs to protect all our brood of chicks, and automatically include the six-foot-two one with the big feet and stubby chin. So we abandon logic and morality and end up doing something crazy, humiliatingly wrong. You really mustn't ask us, chaps. It isn't fair.

Besides, after a bit of thinking over the Whitehead case, we might come to our senses and manage to say no.

'The over forties want to be allowed to have sex lives too'

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets two very different exponents of the art of the best-selling romantic novel

Spencer Huntington has white-blond hair, an hourglass figure and a perfect face. She lives in uptown Miami; her ancestors came over on the *Mayflower*. Her lover, David Delgado, is a dashing, dark policeman, and together they investigate the murder of her husband, Danny.

True Valour is a once attractive housewife from Hampshire, fighting middle age. Her lover is her stepdaughter's husband, Jamie. They meet in seedy London hotels and agonise over their deviousness.

Which of these women do you feel closest to? Which would you rather read about? Harlequin Mills & Boon hopes you will go for sexy Spencer, heroine of *Slow Burn*, the 78th novel by Heather Graham Pozzessere, former model, actress and bartender, now the dominatrix of American romance, who attracts nine-hour queues for her autograph.

Macmillan is sure that British readers will warm to village stalwart Prue, heroine of *Perfect Love* by Elizabeth Buchan, a former publisher and 1994's Romantic Novelist of the Year for her book *Consider the Lily*, a compulsive story of a flat-chested orphan who marries a man who is in love with her cousin and lost his virginity to an Arab boy.

Spencer. They deceive their husbands and discover, in the words of Thomas Hardy, that true love can only grow in "the interstices of a harsh, prosaic reality".

Such books are the antithesis of the sex-and-shopping bonkbusters of the Eighties. According to Suzanne Rabinovitch, *Booklist* editor, they are "wiser, read-ers' novels that reflect the world in which we live."

"This is the genre that is going to last," says Ms Babinovitch. "Buchan is writing about a world in which everything is fine on the surface and then something changes in



British star: romantic novelist of the year Elizabeth Buchan's women have humpy bodies and awkward teenagers, buy their knickers in Marks & Spencer and deceive their husbands

your life, but it's not a man dashing in on a white horse. *Consider the Lily*, God, this could have been worse."

It is hard to imagine a Barbara Cartland heroine sorting through a laundry basket, as Prue does, and being depressed by her stepdaughter's wispy knickers. Romance, surely, should be about escapism, about beautiful young virgins

taming world-weary rakes. Ever since 1909 Mills & Boon has been churning out hundreds of such stories every month. Women's romance makes up 44 per cent of the world's fiction market: in 1993 250 million M&B romances were sold in 100 countries. "I asked a Japanese publisher why our books were so successful in their country, which has a completely different

culture," says Linda Fildew, a senior editor. "She said that Japanese men weren't very expressive, that they didn't acknowledge birthdays, and so women loved to fantasise about romantic heroes sweeping them off their feet."

But even here, the times are changing. Sex slipped its way between the flimsy covers several years ago and guidelines warn the 4,000 hopefuls

who submit manuscripts each year—that heroines must be "established in an interesting career".

Heather Graham Pozzessere, dressed in red mini-skirt and jacket with matching talons, agrees that her readers would feel betrayed if she wrote a "tea and crumpets book". "Sex sells," she says. "In the past 20 years the world has changed so drastically. You can't have a hero with lots of experience because of Aids. And our readers are the baby boomers who want to read about people their own age."

Buchan, in velvet headband, agrees that the over-forties want to feel they are allowed sex lives. Her sex scenes are elliptical, her dustjackets are tastefully pastel. "You could give them to your grandmother and she wouldn't be ashamed to put them on her shelves, which she would be with Julie Burchill," Graham Pozzessere often poses for her covers herself, in medieval wench or Southern Belle gear, along with her pony-tailed husband, Dennis, who is her business manager.

Slow Burn (subheading "Together They Sizzled") and a perfectly enjoyable yarn is her first novel for Mira, a new M&B imprint which accommodates longer novels. These books, Ms Fildew tells me happily, will be sold in Dillons and Waterstones as opposed to the traditional M&B flogging

ground of CTNs (confectioners, tobacconists, newsagents), where novels are said to have a shelf-life longer than milk, but shorter than yoghurt.

Neither Graham Pozzessere nor Buchan is tulle-draped and drenched in *Le Jardin*. "Nothing about writing is what I envisaged it to be," says Graham Pozzessere, mother of five. "You start out because you love to do it, you end up asking 'What's my print run? How's it going to be displayed?' She spends as much time promoting as writing and is in close consultation with her fellow novelists on such questions as "dialogue, narrative, and what do you do when you're on publicity tour and you lose your luggage". At trade fairs they hand out

sweeties with her name printed on them. "My biggest excitement was when they started stocking my books in the grocery store."

Meanwhile Buchan saw *Consider the Lily* being given away free with every jar of Oil of Ulay sold in Boots in the run-up to Mother's Day. "It was wonderful," she says. "Trillions more people read it than would have done otherwise." I ask her what her most romantic moment was and she is taken aback. One, she says eventually, was going to Glyndebourne on the coldest, windiest night of last year with Benji, her husband of 23 years. The other was when she won the romantic novel prize. "I've never been kissed so much in my life."



American star: Heather Graham Pozzessere boosts her sales by posing with her husband on the cover of her novels



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Giving way to the IRA over arms

Paul Bew says the Unionist voice is not being heard

For all the inevitable air of pantomime, Sir Patrick Mayhew's Washington meeting with Gerry Adams is probably the only way to prevent a public relations disaster. It may very well be that the idea of sending the Secretary of State at all is based on an overestimation of the purely economic value of this conference on investment, but once the decision to send Sir Patrick was taken, the meeting with the Sinn Féin president was inevitable.

So far, American economic commitment to Northern Ireland has been disappointing in real terms: analogies with the Marshall aid package are ridiculous. The current level of American aid to Northern Ireland annually barely outstrips the gifts of rich individuals to universities in the Irish Republic. If there is a dividend, it is more likely to be political: the British Government will hope, against hope, that the Adams-Mayhew meeting will help to initiate meaningful discussions about arms between Michael Ancram and Martin McGuinness.

More worryingly, the Washington conference may be used as a platform for Dublin's strident policy of economic "harmonisation".

Ron Brown, the troubled American Commerce Secretary, has apparently supported the idea of harmonising corporation tax north and south at the much lower level that currently prevails in the Republic.

This is a characteristic Dublin theme, but it ignores the crucial importance of a uniform tax rate within the United Kingdom. In this respect, the framework document did not visibly concede any ground, for the uniform rate is essential to the status of the province as an integral part of the United Kingdom.

Once again, a Unionist leader friendly to the British Government has been badly used. James Moynihan has devoted much effort recently to trying to build around Sir Patrick a *cordon sanitaire* — but this has now been decisively breached. The visible snubbing of the Unionist leader can only increase the chances of Robert McCartney, QC — an arch-critic of Mr Moynihan's style — in the forthcoming North Down by-election.

On arms, there is no doubt that the two Governments have gone back on their words. On the day of the Downing Street declaration in December 1993, Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, told the Daily: "We are talking about a permanent cessation of violence, and we are talking about a handing up of arms, with the insistence that it would not be a case of 'we are on a temporary cessation of violence to see what the political process offers'." The two Governments agreed that there could be no room for equivocation. This message was strongly supported by John Bruton, then the leader of the Opposition.

On June 1, 1994, lest anyone had forgotten, Mr Spring used precisely the same language: "There will have to be a

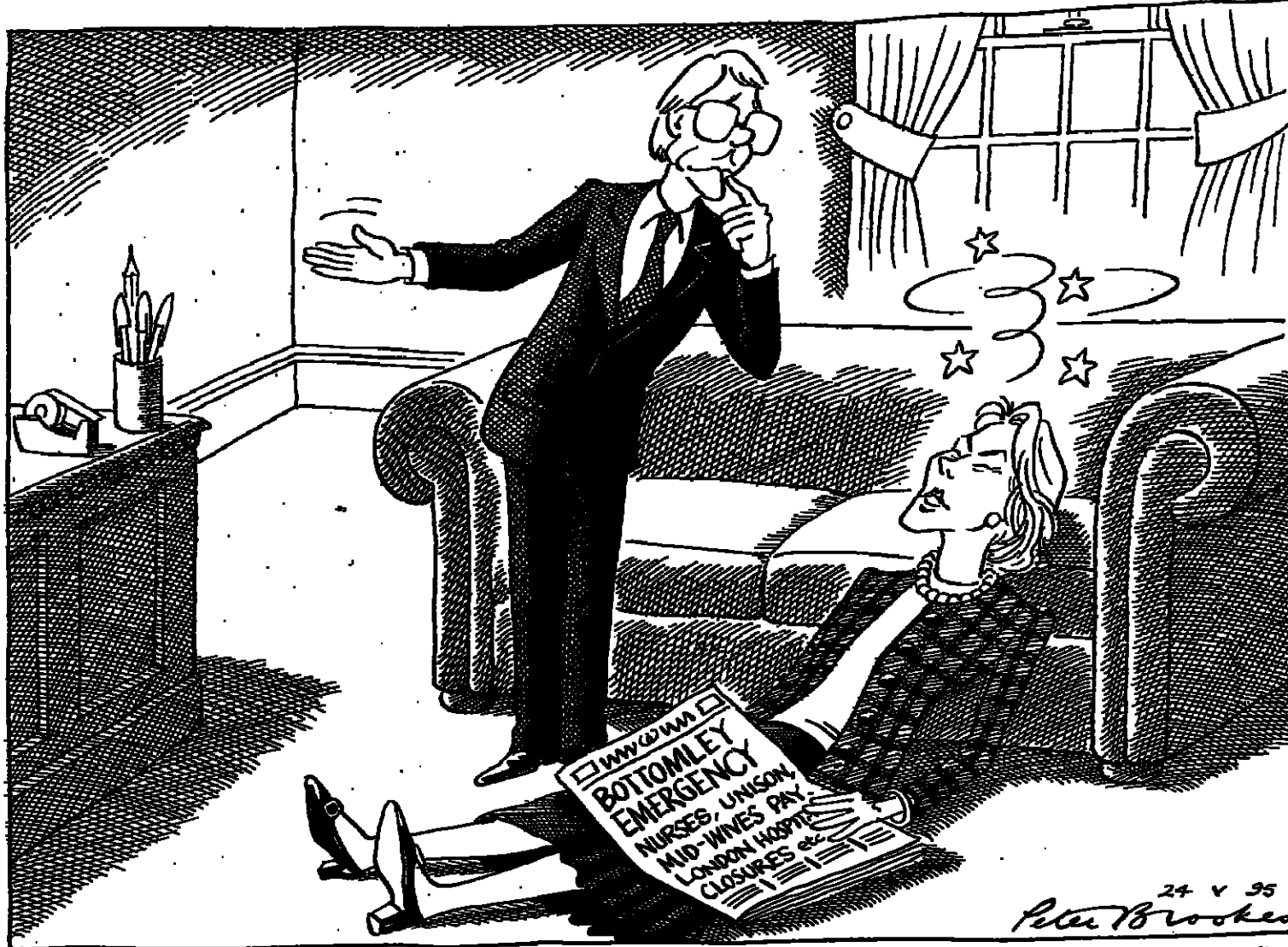
verification of the handing over of arms. As I have said publicly, there is little point in attempting to bring people into political dialogue on the basis of giving it a try and if it does not work returning to the bomb and the bullet... it has to be permanent and there must be evidence of it. There will obviously have to be a precise means of establishing the commitment to use exclusively peaceful methods, and that obviously has to be decided and agreed by both Governments. There can be no participation by Sinn Féin in political discussions with either Government until they have made a firm commitment that violence has ended."

These speeches clearly demonstrate the falsity of the claim made by republicans — and some fellow travellers in Fianna Fail — that the handing over of arms was not raised before the ceasefire. But they also show slippage by both Governments in two areas: ministers, including Sir Patrick Mayhew, have met Sinn Féin before decommissioning, and many observers believe that a symbolic surrender of some arms will satisfy both Governments.

It is only fair to add that the other side has changed its tune too. There is some evidence of a melting of hard-core intransigent republican ideology in Northern Ireland. When Jim Gibney, a senior republican, talks of coming to terms with the "positive aspects" of the Britishness of the Unionists, we are entering new territory. At the weekend, Mr Gibney talked of a need for a new language of compromise. A united Ireland remained his "preferred option", but he added, "there are other options. We will examine them carefully... We will consider any political model designed to accommodate the special characteristics of the Irish people which history has handed down to us."

This is very encouraging for those who wish to see a compromise in Northern Ireland. But the British Government's lack of concern for the majority opinion in the province is also a rather worrying feature of the present situation. For example, *Omnibus*, the official journal of the Northern Ireland Office Information Service, recently asked President Clinton this striking question: "The joint framework document has been launched, and the responses are broadly welcoming, how do you feel about it?" The posing of the question in this way amounts to a casual dismissal of the views, however ill-founded, of Northern Ireland's 13 Unionist MPs. In his last two major interventions at the Dublin Forum — particularly on the vexed matter of the territorial claim — Mr Bruton has moved to meet some Unionist concern. It is time the British Government took a leaf from his book.

The author is professor of Irish Politics at Queen's University, Belfast.



"ER... COATHANGER, PEN TOP, KNIFE & FORK, SELLOTAPE...."

The posthumous years

John Major is a better Thatcherite than his predecessor ever was

John Major should take the Cabinet away for a month. He should do a BBC and hide in some luxury rural retreat to review strategy or play ping-pong. There is nothing he can do. The ghost of Margaret Thatcher is once again howling along the corridors of Westminster and must be given its hour. Another book is rising from the graveyard. *The Sunday Times* is already cooing ectoplasm. There will be chain-rattling, back-stabbing, misquotation and distortion. There will be blood. More terrible even than a woman scorned is an author in need of publicity.

Regardless of what Lady Thatcher calls "serious distortion" of her new book, there is no concealing the message. The Ghosts of Thatcherism are now wholly disaffected from the Tory Mother Church. Mr Major is the heretic. A true apostle of the faith must emerge in time for some future leadership contest. No opportunity is lost, not even in a volume heralded as "my early years", to make the now familiar point. We were fools to get rid of her. How different things would be now, if only...

If only what? A historian reviewing the past four years and examining each twist would find it hard to put daylight between the actual deeds of John Major's Cabinet and those of a Lady Thatcher had she been in office. As she concedes in her first volume, she too would have reformed the poll tax. I believe she too would have ended with something like the council tax. She too would have raised VAT to pay for it. She too would have protected welfare benefits as the recession deepened. She too would have thrown money at the NHS, the police, at mortgage holders, farmers and lawyers. She always did.

In 1992, Lady Thatcher commented caustically on Mr Major's custodianship of the public finances, that for four years "my Government did not have to borrow to meet our outgoings". This was true during the boom of the late 1980s, when revenue was high and Treasury borrowing was helped by asset sales. But Lady Thatcher borrowed when she had to in her recession, and would have done so when Mr Major did, in the depths of the 1992-93 recession, with an election in the offing. She made none of the structural changes in public spending that would have protected the Exchequer. The huge deficit of £45 billion in 1993-94 was inevitable given the public sector she

handed on with the mantle of office. The guardians of the Thatcherite covenant make much play of Mr Major's Maastricht "betrayal". Yet Mr Major handled the 1991 treaty negotiations just as Lady Thatcher handled the 1986 Single European Act. He fought for the British interest throughout the preliminaries and up to the final night. He demanded the opt-out provisions and was granted them amid furious complaints that he was careless of Europe and interested only in Britain. This was the Thatcher tactic precisely.

In an interview with *The Times* in 1991, Lady Thatcher contrasted her style with that of her successor. "John's style is different from mine," she said. "I had to fight. I know what it is like to be in opposition." He, by implication, was soft. But in 1992 Mr Major fought back from the dire position bequeathed him by Lady Thatcher to win a knife-edge election. She never had a majority of 21 and falling. Having lost the security of a big majority, Mr Major was always at risk of a rebellion. Small majorities demand a very different style of political management.

After that election, Mr Major was immediately submerged by the horrors of withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism and ratification of Maastricht. Lady Thatcher was a stickler for form. She would have defended Britain's position within the ERM (which she took us into), and would have left only when market pressure rendered it untenable. That was what Mr Major did. As for Maastricht ratification, she would have expected her backbenchers to support her in a treaty that she herself had signed, however reluctantly, and to which she was publicly committed. So did he.

Lady Thatcher was always sceptical about Europe. But she never suggested withdrawing, not in her Bruges speech or since. She did not press for a withdrawal mechanism to be included in any revision to the Treaty of Rome. She fought for the British bud-

get rebate, as has Mr Major. She fought against the extension of Commission power, against qualified majority voting, against more power for the European Parliament. Mr Major has fought on all these issues, and been charged with being "a Thatcher in trousers". He vetoed Mr Dehaene as Commission president. The public wants a British prime minister to be a cantankerous, reluctant participant in Europe's affairs, but not a withdrawer. Mr Major has tried to honour this tough brief. She would have done the same.

Likewise, Lady Thatcher would have signed John Major's 1993 Downing Street declaration on Northern Ireland with Dublin. She signed the similar 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, against the furious opposition of the Unionists and the resignation of her close colleague Ian Gow. She might have opposed some of Mr Major's other reforms, but only on the grounds that they went too far and too fast. The first volume of her memoirs is full of doubts. She discouraged any minister who wanted to privatise British Rail. She was opposed to selling the Post Office and was unenthusiastic about any new confrontation over coal. On all these fronts, progress with "Thatcherism" was not made until she was gone.

Despite talking about the need to end welfare dependency, she allowed social security spending almost to double in real terms during her time. Housing benefit and invalidity benefit soared in the 1980s, the former as a direct result of her housing reforms. There was much talk of capping social security, cash limiting it, reforming it. But the welfare state remained demand-led and "out of control" until after she left office. Indeed until last year. She initiated the Mackay Green Papers on the reform of legal services and the courts. But with the lawyers howled, she backed off. Mr Major has had to pick up the pieces and push on with reform.

Certainly Lady Thatcher initiated the great 1990 upheaval in the National Health Service, probably her most remarkable domestic achievement. But it took her seven years to find the courage to start. In 1987, and the reform was not mentioned in that year's election manifesto. Even then she did not tackle the drugs budget or the shambles of the London hospitals. Mr Major has done both. He is the Thatcherite, while she may be judged as having more of "Majorite" attributes of timidity and indecision.

Mr Major can reasonably be accused of lacking his mentor's political judgment, her caution, her instinct for when to fight and when to retreat. He has allowed his ministers to charge ahead careless of the political consequences, often having to haul them back afterwards. Almost every week he tests to destruction the theory that small parliamentary majorities should be easier to handle than big ones. But on coal, the Post Office, energy prices, London hospitals and countless other Thatcherite issues, he risked reverse after reverse from his backbenchers rather than abandon the cause. The apprentice has sung the master's tune, prestissimo if occasionally falsetto.

John Major does not, as his party critics relentlessly chant, have Lady Thatcher's leadership style or personality. But he never did. It was precisely for that reason that the club threw her out and chose him. They were probably right. He won them an election she would almost certainly have lost. He did not change in office. A Thatcherite Mr Hyde, hand-crafted by the lady herself, did not drink a potion and become a mild-mannered Dr Jekyll in office. Mr Major has never gone under false pretences. He was always *secundus inter pares*.

Lady Thatcher began, hesitantly, a process of public sector reform which Mr Major has struggled to continue against far greater odds. He may not engage wide support in his reforms, but he should engage hers. Politics is a mug's game. The grass is always greener under some other leader. Every government is wavering and purposeless, unhappy and doomed — until the next comes along. But to accuse John Major of betraying Thatcherism is unfair. He knows no other -ism. The game is greater than the player. Lady Thatcher would have done no more than Mr Major has done, and she knows it.

Simon Jenkins

Name a sum

JOYOUS NEWS arrives from Lloyd's of London, where thousands of ruined names are considering the £2.8 billion compensation package that was offered yesterday. One of its syndicates has just received a windfall of £416,000.

The syndicate consists not of insurance names, however. It is made up of seven security guards at Lloyd's, who won the National Lottery at the weekend. The guards have requested anonymity, but they are already the subject of envious glances from other syndicates, whose members have been hard hit by insurance claims.

"We can only be delighted for the security guards," said Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association working party. "They are getting something which is real money — something we are still waiting for."

Tom Benyon, a former MP and director of the Society of Names, suggested that the security guards might rapidly become rather popular. "I think I shall pop along to them for a small loan," he said. "If you see the security guards in close consultation with the chairman, David Rowland, you will know where the money for the compen-

sation package is coming from." Peter Middleton, the chief executive of Lloyd's, says he is thrilled for the security guards. "We will not be asking them for loans... but I wonder if any of them are already names."

Not me

VISCOUNT CHELSEA has been enjoying the blooms of Chelsea this week, but not without cost. He is



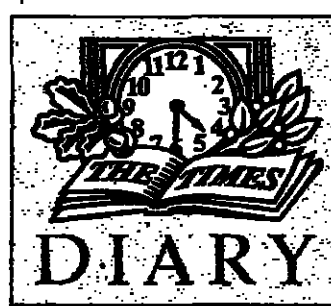
Chelsea's largest landowner (family firm: the Cadogan Estate) and a keen gardener. But he prefers to distance himself from the show.

"It's always a bit of a problem at this time of year because of my name. Everyone keeps asking me for tickets, even though I've nothing to do with the flower show," he says. "It's not held on Cadogan land you see. It's the Ministry of Defence they should ask."

Odds evened

FOR THE first time in years there is a better chance of a British player winning Wimbledon than of NASA proving the existence of intelligent extra-terrestrial life. This follows the decision by Greg Rusedski, who is ranked 47th in the world and has the fastest service ever recorded (137 mph), to switch allegiance from Canada to Britain. William Hill have slashed the odds on a British champion this summer from 1,000-1 — the same as that for the Archbishop of Canterbury confirming the Second Coming — to 100-1. The likelihood of proving the existence of aliens is 250-1.

With concern about sleaze in mind, Tony Blair has belatedly listed in the updated Register of Members' Interests (published to-



morrow) a visit he made in 1993 to the Bilderberg Conference in Athens as Shadow Home Secretary. His companion, Kenneth Clarke, suffers no such qualms — he hasn't registered the trip.

Fast buck

THE OLYMPIC athlete and founder of the London Marathon, Chris Brasher, repaired for a hefty lunch to a Covent Garden restaurant to celebrate his libel victory yesterday against Channel 4 and the *New Statesman*.

Brasher and his fellow athlete John Disley were awarded more than £380,000 damages over false allegations of fraud, deception and dishonesty. With costs, the payout — secured by Brasher's QC George Carman in an appearance which all-but broke the four-

minute barrier — topped £1.1 million. Brasher's back-of-the-menu calculations found that Carman's time in court worked out at more money per second than Linford Christie in full flight.

Foul is fair

BRITAIN'S inclement weather is rather popular with the Emir of Kuwait. At a state banquet in Buckingham Palace, laid on for him yesterday, he talked of his citizens' special feelings for the United Kingdom. "Large numbers of them live in Britain continuously, and in summer their numbers increase because they feel safe and comfortable... the temperature in London does not reach fifty degrees in the shade."

Who nose?

AN ANCIENT society for those endowed with huge noses is being revived in Derbyshire. Membership is free to those boasting a proboscis of two-and-a-half inches or more.

A local news report from 1885 has been unearthed which documents the riotous activities of the Heage Nose Club, a club disbanded after members were brought before the courts for being drunk in charge of a horse and cart singing



Classic snout: Cyrano

the Hallehujah Chorus. The society, which will tour the truns of the village of Heage tonight, has been resurrected by local Morris Dancers.

"Sadly these days we seem to be nasally challenged," says Roger Tili, one of their number. "Out of 30 of us, only two can be classed as having Cyrano de Bergerac snouts, so most will be wearing cardboard extensions."

P.H.S

Alan Coren



I don't wish to seem heightist, but stop blocking the light

Unless you are reading this on the French Riviera, there are no tall girls where you are. I know that because I am writing this on the French Riviera, and all the tall girls in the world are where I am. Over the past 40 years or so, ever since I began looking at girls in a major way, I have been to all the places where the tall girls live — California, New South Wales, Scandinavia — and in all that time and in all those places I have seen a total of perhaps two thousand girls who could be described as seriously tall. But I have been on the Riviera for only three days, and I have already seen getting on for 13,000 tall girls. As I sit here now, tapping my laptop at a café table on the Croisette in Cannes, shadows fall across its little keyboard every three or four seconds as another group of heads interposes itself between me and the morning sun, bobbing some two metres above the pavement, and since the languages issuing from these heads are myriad, the combination of numbers and polyglotticity force me to no other conclusion than that the rest of the world has been drained of young female giants.

You might guess — this being the convention capital of Europe and second only to Las Vegas in its attraction of gabbling free-loaders — that they had all flocked here for Tall Sisters 95, an international congress pledged to furthering the welfare and ambitions of women higher than two yards, but you would be only half right. For while they are manifestly here to further those things, it is no ideologically correctional organisation that has brought them. Quite the opposite: what has brought them is that egregiously glittering bit of politically unreconstructed nonsense, the Cannes Film Festival.

There is no point dwelling on why they are here, because you all know why they are here: indeed, noticing the sudden absence of tall girls from your own patches, the astute among you will already have put it down to the sudden gathering on the Riviera of film moguls, that fraternity of small men for whom, sexual fashion being the capricious thing it is, tall girls are the current accessory of choice, something of a stroke of luck given that tall girls seem to have no problem at all when it comes to throwing in their lot with the little, if the little are movie millionaires. Every tall girl in the world has come here to find one for herself.

So it is not why they are here which concerns me, but that they are. For it is often the case — you have only to recall the Nazi-Soviet pact — that when two utterly disparate but equally self-seeking interests meet in common cause, it is the poor bastards in the middle who cop it. It is thus a lousy time to be on the Côte d'Azur for men of average height. If I walk say, into the chic terrace bar of the Carlton Hotel, looking for a table, the waiters cannot see me for all the tall girls in the way who are looking for tables with small men at. If I ask the tall girls to move so that the waiters can see me, the tall girls ignore me because I am not small enough to be of interest. That is also the view of the waiters when they finally do see me after the tall girls have all found tables with small men at. It is why I am typing this at a crummy little café which no small man or tall girl would be caught dead in.

Even if my ambition is no more than to stroll the thronged boulevards in the hope of spotting one of the preening megafolk we are all here to spot, things are no better, because I cannot see anything for the tall girls who are hemming me in. I suppose I could ask the tall girls to tell me what they can see, but I know they would ignore me, because I am not small enough to bother with.

So yesterday, having seen nothing at all in Cannes, I drove to Monte Carlo to pick a spot from which to watch Sunday's Grand Prix, and by great good fortune I found I could buy one for hardly more than the average mortgage. But as I drove back towards Cannes, I realised I had scant hope of seeing anything from it, because driving in the opposite direction were hundreds of tiny convertibles full of tall girls — clearly the ones who had not struck lucky with rich moguls and had decamped to Monte Carlo in the hope of striking luckier with rich racing drivers.

My own luck, I have little doubt, will be to find myself, next Sunday, standing right behind one.



DORRELL'S LAW

A policy made from fear, favour and false philosophy

Stephen Dorrell's proposals on media ownership display every sign of the muddle, weakness and defeatism that are this Conservative Government's best-known trademarks. The long-awaited paper was a triumph for lobbyists from TV and newspaper groups which want to buy and sell one another: it was a triumph for the short-term fixers within the Tory party who think that paternalism and the free market can be cooked up to produce the instant benefits of both. But it was a special, unexpected bonus for the left wing of the Labour Party which can now anticipate that Tony Blair will be at least as interventionist and anti-competitive.

Indeed, it seemed yesterday as though Mr Dorrell himself was anticipating a Blair government. Whenever John Major eventually falls from office, his last most influential ministers will be those who have bequeathed policies which Labour can carry out in their place. The Secretary of State for National Heritage set out proposals yesterday which, from the mouth of a Labour minister, would delight a union conference — and provoke justified indignation among the same free enterprise Tories who somehow passed these proposals in Cabinet subcommittee two weeks ago. In destroying any incentive for creative media businesses to make big investments, take huge risks and grow, his plans would not have shamed the most suspicious socialists of our time.

Mr Dorrell, who in the days when he was anyone's darling at all was a darling of the Tory left, has won a remarkable victory over the wealth-creating philosophy of the party which brought him to power. Despite the objections of senior colleagues, he has won approval for measures that would restrict media companies to an eventual 10 per cent of the total media market: and he has won the establishment of a government-appointed regulator to deem whether an offending company's existing media holdings are in the public interest or against it.

The powers proposed for this regulator are of an almost unprecedented nature. If there were media companies in Britain with the type of monopoly once enjoyed in America by Standard Oil and the Bell telephone company, it could be reasonable to set up systems to break up holdings and enforce competition. If the concern were to restrict anti-competitive media mergers,

there is already machinery in place and this might be strengthened. But Mr Dorrell's proposal is that existing media portfolios, none of them even close to a monopoly and many of them built up from nothing or from one-time loss-making failures, should be put up for the regulator's judgment.

There is no basis in business philosophy for this. The proposals would set a prior ceiling for a growing group's share of a market. In the newspaper sector, for example, the result would be to reward groups whose policy is one of high prices and low circulations. *The Times* has an interest here which has to be declared. Three years ago this newspaper was at the end of a long period of low circulation and low revenues, and had little prospect of a secure financial future. Today, thanks substantially to risk-taking by its owners, *The Times* enjoys an almost doubled circulation and is closer to financial security than at any time for decades. Prices overall are lower: the market is larger; national declines in readership have been reversed.

It is hard to believe that, had Dorrell's laws been in force, there would have been the incentive to risk so much for *The Times*. Nor would there have been the incentive to build the BSkyB satellite broadcasting system if its size was to be limited to 20 per cent of its market and its existence put under the control of competitors who can effect every participant's market share by their own price rises or poor performance.

The classic dangers of media monopoly are high prices, lack of consumer choice and a narrowing of political diversity. That is precisely what Mr Dorrell would achieve if he were ever allowed to enact his proposals. Prices would rise when media proprietors realised the penalties of success. Choice would be diminished when newspaper titles with little hope of financial success were starved of investment or closed.

It is hard to fathom what mixture of fear, favour and misplaced philosophy has motivated Mr Dorrell over the past few months. Perhaps it will all be quickly seen as a mistake: there are escape clauses for Mr Major amid the bureaucratic verbiage. Perhaps he will take one of them — before Mr Blair shows himself as the party leader more favourable to competition, free enterprise and creative business.

DUMA DEMOCRACY

It matters more to get the Russian system right than overnight

President Yeltsin's veto of the Duma's draft election law makes it more likely that the parliamentary elections scheduled for December will be delayed. To supporters of reform at home and abroad this sends a dangerous signal. Russia's commitment to unfamiliar democratic procedures is tenuous enough; bickering over the constitution can only undermine confidence that the post-Communist system is workable, and increase the temptation of those looking for a return to authoritarianism to scrap the elections altogether. In fact, the President's veto has good grounds. The present law and the Duma draft revision are manifestly inequitable. Neither would lead to an outcome properly reflecting the people's will. Far better to risk postponing the elections than proceed with an election on a flawed basis.

At issue is the proportion of deputies elected by direct constituency ballot compared with the numbers chosen from party lists. Half the 450 members of the present Duma have been chosen on one basis and half on the other, and the Lower House argues that the new election law should leave this ratio as it is. The Upper House, the Federation Council, wants a significant change, providing for 300 deputies to be elected from individual constituencies and only 150 on a list system.

In the present inchoate state of party politics in Russia, a list system gives undue influence to fringe parties. This was alarmingly clear last time round, when Vladimir Zhirinovsky brought dozens of Liberal

Democratic Party members into the Duma on his extremist coat-tails — few of whom would have stood a chance in a contested constituency ballot. The list system also skews the outcome in the provinces, where party politics is almost unknown. Indeed in Kamchatka, the Far East peninsula as large as France, the 16 parties represented have a total membership of 146 voters. To reduce the list representation would benefit the centre and force deputies to band together into fewer and more coherent groups.

This outcome, a desirable objective for any fledgling democracy, is precisely what makes Mr Yeltsin's veto suspect in the eyes of many Russians. For the party that would benefit most would be the quaintly-named new centre party Russia is Our Home, headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and committed to supporting Mr Yeltsin.

Mr Yeltsin's veto will now lead to back-room bargaining. The outcome matters, not only to the balance of power between the executive and the legislative organs, but because the December parliamentary elections will set the framework for next year's presidential contest. Mr Yeltsin should stick to his veto, but he can make concessions to get his way — such as dropping his opposition to a Duma proposal that government employees must resign before standing for election. Bargaining cannot go on long: a new law must be passed by August if the parliamentary timetable is to be kept. But that is less important than getting the details right.

SELLOTAPE, AIR HOSTESS

Old surgical arts are not made obsolete by new technology

In spite of the continual advances of medical technology and drugs, medicine is never going to become an exact science. It is always going to be a humane art somewhere between fly-fishing and weather-forecasting.

The do-it-yourself operation conducted by two British flying doctors in a jumbo jet is a reminder that skill and imagination still count for as much in the surgery as state-of-the-art tools and increasingly vast expense. Yesterday their patient, Paula Dixon, was recovering from her emergency operation for a punctured lung at 35,000 feet. Luckily for her, Angus Wallace, professor of accident surgery at Nottingham University Hospital, and Dr Tom Wong, senior houseman at Stracathro Hospital near Brechin, were on her flight from Hong Kong to answer when the emergency call came over the Tannoy for a doctor on board.

They had only the British Airways first-aid kit. So they improvised the tools of their trade from a coathanger. Sellotape and Evian water, with brandy to sterilise the coathanger. Dr Wong held the incision open with a knife and fork, while Professor Wallace probed the coathanger with tube from an oxygen mask attached towards an air pocket that had built up outside Mrs Dixon's lung. And so they saved her life.

Not all conditions would respond to such Boy Scout surgery. It would be madness to attempt a liver transplant in mid-air with scissors and spoon and Sellotape. But the founding fathers of medicine, from the ancient Greeks and Romans and the barber-surgeons of the medieval battlefield to the great Victorian systematisers and the modern clinical scientists in their high-tech laboratories would have recognised their fundamental principle: to do the best possible to save life with the tools available.

Most advances in surgery, from anaesthetics to sterilisation, have been made in emergency theatres. In spite of the incredible sophistication of modern techniques, skill, daring and lateral thinking remain essential qualities for the surgery. In emergency, doing what must be done to save life is the only rule that matters. Mrs Dixon is lucky she was not on an American aircraft. For American doctors might well have been frightened off their duty in such conditions for fear of the huge damages if anything went wrong. The other passengers and crew on the flight witnessed a dramatic example of the first principles of a cool head and steady hand. And after using the brandy to sterilise his coathanger, Professor Wallace may be excused for drinking the rest of it.

Lady Thatcher's latest broadside at troubled Tories

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Baroness Thatcher has, it appears (reports, May 23), called for a revision of the treaties governing Britain's political links with the rest of Europe. We should seek, she says, a recast relationship with the rest of the Community, allowing France and Germany to set up a hardcore Union without British membership but leaving our trading links intact.

This is revisionism with a vengeance and is unrealistic to the point of being totally doty.

It fails to take account of the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be. It is fifty years or more since the UK was in a position to tell other countries what to do, let alone those strong, wealthy and united neighbours on the other side of the Channel. It is over thirty years since we recognised that trading links were not enough for us. We were losing influence and in danger of being sidelined in a changing world.

Her plans are also dreadful tactically. As the Prime Minister has already concluded, if we march into the 1996 negotiating chamber armed with irreducible demands we will find others have them too — the abandonment of our hated opt-outs on the single currency and social chapter for a start.

She adds that if other countries resist, we should pursue "every measure of obstruction and disruption open to us" unless Britain's interests were recognised.

What a depressing picture: handbags everywhere, producing only pursed lips and greater determination across the table. I doubt if the electorate would find it an edifying spectacle either. They above all know that our future lies in Europe and not, as we once believed, exclusively outside.

Britain's interests are not in terminal conflict with those of the rest of Europe. That is Margaret Thatcher's mistake. It is instead greatly to our benefit to be an active player, and to

our partners' to take note of the common sense we have to offer.

Nobody will listen, however, if the British appear bent on rewriting the fundamentals of the original treaties from a standpoint of implacable, pointless and outdated hostility.

Yours faithfully,
EDWINA CURRIE,
(Chairman elect,
Conservative Group for Europe,
House of Commons,
May 22.

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, With the near certainty of another electoral setback for HMG at Perth and Kinross, with yet another soon inevitable at Litchfield and Saddleworth, renewed calls can be expected from near-desperate Tory MPs to replace John Major and/or to reshuffle Ministers who are especially out of favour.

It is thus pertinent to recall that in 1992, after over a decade of Conservative government under an outstanding PM — but, towards the end of her rule, an increasingly unpopular one — there already existed a deep and widespread feeling in the country that it was "time for a change".

Yet in 1992 the many electors not yet ready to vote Labour (no longer "unelectable") felt that the desired "change" could be achieved by voting for a totally new Tory leadership, that of the moderate, likeable John Major, who was so utterly different from Margaret Thatcher. To talk now of changing the Tory leadership again, less than a couple of years before the next election, or to think that a reshuffle will cause the Tory sun to shine again, is nonsensical.

Although John Major's motivation may be highly creditable, his idea of fighting the next election on a populist "please everyone" platform in order to bring disillusioned Tories back into the fold could be highly counter-productive. Among their demands will be the return of capital punishment, re-

peal of the extension of VAT on domestic fuel, and at the very least a dilution of our ties with the European Union.

I doubt whether the Prime Minister will feel able to give his assent on any of these points.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERIC BENNETT
(Conservative MP for Reading North,
1951-55; Torquay, 1955-74;
Torbay, 1974-87),
4 Hale Court,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
May 22.

From Mr A. R. F. Carter

Sir, The fruits of the Thatcher revolution lie deeply embedded within the new generation of voters.

My French A-level class was recently called upon to translate the word "shop steward". Out of thirteen pupils aged 17 or 18 only two, by the evidence of their translation, revealed any understanding of what a shop steward was, or what he (or she) did.

Will Mr Blair's New Labour Party have to begin a period of re-education, or is this ignorance, unthinkable fifteen years ago, something else for which he must (either secretly or openly) also thank our former Prime Minister?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CARTER,
32 The Poles,
Upchurch,
Sittingbourne, Kent,
May 18.

From Mr Piers Eley

Sir, Other Conservative MPs/peers, have been deprived of the Whip. Is it not true that Lady Thatcher lost her handbag?

Yours faithfully,
PIERS ELEY,
35 Montague Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
May 22.

Freedom to roam

From the Chairman of the Ramblers' Association

Sir, You reported on May 20 that on the Ramblers' Association's forthcoming "Open Britain Day" on September 24 our members "will stage mass trespasses at a number of sites".

We shall be holding a number of peaceful demonstrations on that day, but at present we have no plans for mass trespasses.

Any event which the Ramblers' Association might stage to express support for wider rights of public access to the countryside would be entirely peaceful, would be in accordance with any directions given by the police and would in no way breach the criminal law.

The Ramblers' Association does not challenge "the right to own property", as implied in your leading article ("Wrongs of way", May 22). But we draw a commonsense distinction between different types of property.

For example, it is reasonable for the owner of a house and garden to be able "to regulate the manner and method of entry by others onto their land" to the extent of excluding anyone whose presence is not welcome.

Church and adultery

From Mr Joseph Usher

Sir, Whatever the views of the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Most Reverend Richard Holloway, on adultery (reports, May 17, 18; letters, May 20), the suggestion that it might not be a sin, but a "natural state", has a bearing on more than Christian sexual conduct.

My understanding of the scriptures is that they are about the Christian's relationship with God, who is both holy and righteous. The prophet Hosea had an adulterous wife and God used this illustration to rebuke the children of Israel about their relationship with Him.

In the Letter to the Ephesians husbands are exhorted to love their wives, just as Christ loved the Church. Clearly the scriptures view adultery as wrong and as a matter which affects the Christian's personal relationship with God.

Marital choice

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Men are likely to marry women who resemble their mothers, says a psychoanalyst at a conference on adultery (report, May 16; letters, May 18). As the late C. E. M. Joad might have commented, it all depends what is meant by resemble.

During infancy there is a basic instinct in all of us that motivates a bonding and the forming of a psychological attachment with person (usually mother or mother figure) whom we trust in the ontological sense.

This need for trust in relationships with others pervades our lives thereafter. We may unconsciously rely on our past experience of forming bonds when looking for a partner in life. Thus it can be seen we may be attracted to a woman who instils that confidence and who may have some of the characteristics of our mother.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Clwyd,
May 19.

Crossed line

From Mr Bernard Stace

Sir, Lord Beloff (letter, May 17) states that Worcester College is on the way to Oxford station. To link this with other recent correspondence ("Comings and goings", see right), it depends on "where you are coming from".

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD STACE,
4 Cavendish Place, Bath, Avon,
May 20.

Punishment of 'Winchester Two'

From Mr N. G. Allan

Sir, You were almost certainly right (leading article, May 20) to say that the custodial sentences imposed on Mr and Mrs David Whitehead were excessive.

Your reasoning, however, is dangerously wrong insofar as it trivialises their crime ("minor traffic offence"; "small traffic accident"; "minor lapse in integrity"). It is the same thinking which would express relief that the housemaid's illegitimate baby was only a small one.

A lie is a lie is a lie. And a lie told with the intention of perverting the course of justice is one which strikes at the heart of a system of which you, Sir, would no doubt wish to be considered a supporter.

The previous good character of the accused should have been enough to justify non-custodial disposals. To suggest that their crime was not a grave one sends an alarmingly wrong message.

Yours faithfully,
N. G. ALLAN,
11 Primrose Street, Dumfries,
May 23.

From Mr P. J. Sidey

Sir, In the unfortunate event of two people having to go to jail for a short period — and punishing innocent parties left without necessary care at home — why cannot one sentence be concluded before the other is begun?

It would be nice if the law's delay could help the innocent, for once.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. SIDNEY,
The Ridge, Langley Road,
Claverdon, Warwickshire,
May 21.

From Mrs Mary Coker

Sir, On Channel 4 News tonight, Mr Michael Portillo said of Sir Jerry Wiggin's actions that they were silly rather than wicked, thus justifying the acceptance of an apology to the House as sufficient punishment.

What a pity Mr Justice Kennedy did not take the same view of the Whiteheads, whose offences were probably also silly rather than wicked.

In fact, if all sentencing had to take into account whether a guilty person was evil or silly in intent then more non-custodial sentences would be imposed, with a smaller prison population, less public expense and no loss of law and order as a consequence.

Yours faithfully,
MARY COKER,
Tyler End, Clebelands,
Penn, Buckinghamshire,
May 22.

From Dr D. H. Fremlin

Sir, "Children told that jailed parents are on holiday" (headline, later editions, May 22), it seems that lying rather than facing up to disagreeable facts is a habit in some families.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. FREMLIN,
25 Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex,
May 22.

Thames view

From Mr Marcus Eales

Sir, I was very surprised to read of Greenwich Council's proposal to build a submerged bypass along the Thames in front of the Royal Naval College (article, May 10; letter, May 19). It is likely that during its construction the width of the river would have to be reduced substantially. This would have unpredictable and potentially serious effects on flood defences, navigation and wildlife.

Have we not learnt the lessons from recent flooding disasters along the Mississippi and Rhine which resulted from changing the course of these rivers?

Yours faithfully,
MARCUS EALES,
11 Trinity Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.

A bridge too far?

From the President of the Alliance Française de Londres

Sir, When considering the call by Trade Minister, Richard Needham, for schools to switch from teaching French to Spanish (report, later editions, May 18) there is a persuasive factor.

The culture of France engendered our own, whereas the culture of Spain did not. When we study French, we are also studying French culture.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FAWCETT,
President of the Alliance
Française de Londres,
1 Dorset Square, NW1,
May 22.

Comings and goings

From Mr D. B. Gurrey

Sir, As I am now well past my allotted span, my family tell me I should slow down. My friends, however, suggest that I should slow up.

Which is the better direction to follow (letters, May 11, 13, 15, 19, 20)?

Yours faithfully,
D. B. GURREY,
Cwm Farm, Forden,
Welshpool, Powys,
May 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

RAGNHILD HATTON

Ragnhild Hatton, FBA, historian and biographer, died in London on May 16 aged 82. She was born in Bergen, Norway, on February 10, 1913.

THE publication of Ragnhild Hatton's definitive biographies of Charles XII of Sweden (1968) and of George I of Hanover and England (1978) established her international reputation as one of the outstanding scholars of 17th and 18th-century history writing in English. Professor of International History at the London School of Economics from 1968 until her retirement in 1980, she was one of the most forceful, energetic and charismatic historians at the University of London, which remained the base of her professional activities for all of her life in Britain.

She had begun that life, however, as Ragnhild Marie Hanssen in Norway and, despite her profound love for Britain and for a particularly traditional British way of life, it was impossible to think of Ragnhild as anything other than Norwegian and, specifically, as a native of Bergen. In 1926 she took her master's degree at Oslo University — Bergen University had not then been founded — and married an Englishman, Harry Hatton, settling with him in London into a united partnership which lasted until his death over fifty years later.

This decisive change of direction brought her to the University of London and, allowing for the interruptions of motherhood and the war, she obtained her PhD from University College London in 1947.

Ragnhild Hatton had been particularly influenced by two scholars of notable intellectual independence who helped to shape her own challenging and deeply rigorous approach to history: G. J. Renier and Mark Thomson. After her initial study of Anglo-Dutch relations in the early 18th century, she moved steadily away from traditional diplomatic history and became one of the pioneers in evolving a more synthetic approach to the study of international affairs.

Deeply uncomfortable with received opinions, she insisted upon total immersion in the widest possible range of archival sources and a linguistic mastery which few other historians achieved, even teaching herself to read in Russian and Turkish as preparation for her *Charles XII*.

She was fond of attributing the unyielding application and ferocious energy which such demanding research required to her Viking blood, and, at the height of her powers, she was frequently likened to a Valkyrie. When in 1983, she was made a knight



(first class) of the Royal Norwegian Order of St Olaf she took particular pleasure in the fact that one of her predecessors, Kirsten Flagstad, had been a supreme interpreter, womanly but indomitable, of the role of Brunnhilde, and so she saw herself.

Ragnhild's increasing interest in the craft of biography, aided by her keen curiosity and interest in individual personalities, marked another stage of her intellectual development. The study of Charles XII and George I: *Electors and Kings*, translated into Swedish and German respectively, are enduring contributions; but it was *Louis XIV and his World* (1972), in which she demonstrated her highly sophisticated skills in using visual material as historical evidence, and *Louis XIV and Europe* (1976), together with seminal articles on Louis and his court, that brought her recognition in France and the *Palme académique* in 1984.

Much of her work appeared in French, Spanish and Portuguese translations, and it was characteristic that the shared interest in Louis XIV, rather than producing rivalry, knitted her even more closely in friendship to Professor Andrew Lossky, another independent-minded cosmopolitan, at the University of California, Los Angeles. The flow of invitations to visit

American universities during the 1970s and early 1980s — which she called her "golden years" — owed much to this mutual respect and affection.

By the 1970s she had become a force of nature, and her commitment to archival research did not diminish the time and energy she devoted to her students and to the University of London. Beginning as an assistant lecturer in 1949, she moved on to the posts of lecturer, 1950, Reader, 1958, and then Professor of International History, 1968, at the LSE, where she enjoyed a particularly close professional and personal friendship with the Stevenson Professor, the late James Joll. As a distinguished early-modernist interested in courts, she especially enjoyed the pomp and ceremony which came with her stint, 1974-78, as Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at the LSE.

Her exacting standards were twinned to a seemingly boundless generosity, which helps to explain why other mooted projects — a book on the northern crowns, a full-scale biography of Louis XIV — were never realised. This open-handed and open-hearted devotion to her students was returned to her in full measure as they came to constitute almost an extended family. Those personal qualities which endeared her to younger generations —

her salty frankness, her appetite for hard work, her inability to mask her disapproval for those who wilfully fell beneath her standards — did not make her universally cherished by her colleagues. Ragnhild Hatton never pretended to be an "easy" person, and her distrust of emolument and accommodating careerists probably explains why she was more honoured abroad than by her adopted country.

In addition to the Norwegian and French honours, she was created a Commander of the Swedish Royal Order of the Northern Star in 1986, another sign of her immense achievement in Scandinavian studies. Much to her husband's irritation, she received no official recognition in any honours list in this country and it would be an understatement to describe her election in 1993 as a Fellow of the British Academy as "late". Not inclined to bear grudges, she threw herself, despite failing physical health, into the Academy's activities with characteristic gusto laced with an amused and detached irony.

Harry Hatton, who had shared her love of music, museums, travel and food and who was a constant partner in all her public life, died in 1989. Ragnhild Hatton is survived by their two sons.

MAJOR WALTER MAGOR

Major Walter Magor CMG, OBE, colonial administrator and horticulturist, died on May 1 aged 83. He was born on June 1 1911.

WALTER MAGOR served in India and Kenya before joining the Home Civil Service in Whitehall. It was not until his retirement, however, that he could fully achieve his life's ambition by turning to botany and horticulture.

His military career in British India came to a premature end in the 1930s when he asked his commanding officer for permission to get married — an essential requirement in those days. "I expect subalterns in the Poona Horse to spend their money on polo ponies, not on wives," his commanding officer sternly replied, turning him down. Not prepared to subscribe to this order of priorities, young Magor resigned his commission and looked elsewhere for a career.

He joined the Indian Political Service, which took a more tolerant view of matrimony, returning to his regiment as a reserve officer when the Second World War broke out. The Poona Horse which had recently been mechanised went to North Africa, but Magor was sent on a reconnaissance mission to Iran — then regarded as a vulnerable link on the route to India.

He went back to the Indian Political Service after the war to lead a dangerous life for the next two years, dispensing justice in isolated parts of northern India, then awash with nationalist fervour and communal violence. Partition in 1947 forced him once again to change direction. Switching to the Kenyan colonial administration, he spent most of the 1950s in Nairobi, involved at one time with combating Mau Mau terrorism.

Appointed Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence in Nairobi in 1954, he became acting Defence Minister two years later, then Cabinet Secretary.

On leaving Kenya at the beginning of the 1960s, he was appointed CMG — he had been advanced to OBE from

MBE in 1956. He was later decorated by the Belgian Government for his part in organising the evacuation to Nairobi of Belgian nationals fleeing fighting in the Congo.

Meanwhile, on returning home, Magor embarked on what was in effect his fourth career, by joining the British Civil Service in order to take up a post at the Board of Trade. He rose to be an assistant secretary at what was by that time the Department of Trade and Industry before retiring at the age of 60. Only then was he able to realise his original dream.

He had been born Edward Walter Moyle Magor at Lamellen, St Tudy, north Cornwall, on land which his family had owned since the Domesday Book. His father, a non-practising barrister and country gentleman, had been given some rhododendron seeds from the Far East at a time when collectors were scouring the Himalayas for them, so young Walter grew up in a world of sumptuous blooms.

At Marlborough he carried off the botany prize, and also demonstrated his love of horses by exercising them for a local trainer. He then read botany at Magdalen College, Oxford, before taking a higher degree at Magdalen, Cambridge. He then looked round for a botanist's job in Britain.

But such posts were few and far between in the recession of the early 1930s. "If I don't get this, I will join the Indian Army," he told one prospective employer, who kindly advised him that he had better book his passage.

He pursued his interest in plants while overseas. But it was only on returning to this country that he could turn his attention to Lamellen. His father had died in 1941, since when the grounds of the big house had been neglected. The flower beds were overgrown and full of weeds.

But Magor started the work of restoration and returned them to their former glory. When in season the long drive from the main road was soon lined with a magnificent display of rhododendrons.

At the same time Magor edited the Royal Horticultural



Society's justly celebrated *Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook* between 1974 and 1982, was chairman of the RHS's rhododendron and camellia group for four years and won numerous prizes including the Veitch Memorial Medal in 1966. Locally he served as president of the Cornwall Garden Society and the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association. He was made a Deputy Lieutenant of the county in 1974, was High Sheriff in 1981 and was chairman of the St John Church.

As well as being a good horseman, who rode at point-to-point, hunted and played polo as a young man, Magor became a keen shot while in India. But nothing ever replaced botany as his first love. He was a generous gardener, happy to pass on his knowledge as well as cuttings and seeds to others who shared his passion.

Walter Magor's Irish-born wife Daphne died in 1972. He is survived by two daughters.

MARSHALL ROYAL

Marshall Royal, jazz saxophonist and musical director, died in Los Angeles on May 8 aged 82. He was born in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, on May 12, 1912.

"YOU couldn't have wished for a better deputy to help you with a big band," wrote Count Basie, for whom Marshall Royal played lead alto saxophone for nearly twenty years, from 1951 to 1970. Other bandleaders agreed, and Royal played a key role in establishing the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, after having been a mainstay of Les Hite's band in Culver City throughout the 1930s. Royal was also an accomplished soloist on violin, clarinet and alto saxophone, and he contributed to thousands of recording sessions as a freelance, for leaders as varied as Ray Charles and Duke Ellington.

Marshall Walton Royal could hardly have been anything but a musician. He was born on the road, in a backwater of Oklahoma, as his parents and his uncle, who formed a stage act called the Three Royals, worked their way from Texas to California. "I slept at night behind my mother's piano, wrapped up in my father's overcoat," he recalled. When his father became president of Los Angeles Local 767, the black branch of the Musicians' Union, the house in which they settled became a centre for local music-making, and Royal had formal violin lessons followed by informal (but rigorous) clarinet tuition from his uncle.

His younger brother Ernie also took up music, becoming a successful trumpeter and arranger. As a teenager, Royal made a healthy living by winning talent contests at the various

amateur nights around Los Angeles. His earnings had peaked at around \$75 a week when he was banned from competing for being "a professional" although he was still in high school. His first job was with Leon Rene's band, and he went on to work with Artwell Rose. At 18 he joined Hite's band, the resident orchestra at Frank Sebastian's New Cotton Club, and regular accompanists to stars like Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller.

Hite's drummer was Lionel Hampton, who remembered Royal's talent as an organiser and asked the Royal brothers to join his big band in 1940 after his meteoric rise to fame with Benny Goodman.

Royal imposed discipline and order on a youthful and vigorous reed section in Hampton's band, which included Dexter Gordon and Illinois Jacquet. Jacquet always credited Royal with inspiring his greatest recorded solo on *Flying Home* by whispering "Be yourself!" to Jacquet as he stepped up to the microphone. Royal himself took a major share of the band's solos from rather florid clarinet playing to a direct, bluesy style on alto, as well as sharing violin duets on slow ballads with Ray Perry.

For the most part, this was a successful stage in Royal's career, although after a season at the Trianon Ballroom in Los Angeles he complained to Hampton that he was being featured like a "black Benny Goodman". Royal left Hampton abruptly after hearing the band's agent Joe Glaser advising Gladys Hampton (their

manager) over salaries: "Buy cheap and sell high."

Naval service and a spell with Eddie Haywood's band led Royal to freelance work on the West Coast, before Count Basie invited him to replace Buddy De Franco. Royal accepted, playing clarinet in Basie's septet, and going on to become a founder member of Basie's 1950s big band. Ironically, since Royal had appeared several times as a deputy and a film extra with Duke Ellington's band in the 1930s, he agreed to join Basie only two weeks before Ellington asked him to replace Johnny Hodges in his band. Royal felt unwilling to leave Basie so soon (he eventually stayed for almost two decades), and declined the offer but he was still touring with Ellington alumni groups in the late 1980s despite, at best, only being a part-time member of Duke's band.

Royal settled in Los Angeles after leaving Basie, working regularly with cornetist Bill Berry and with the Kapp-Pepper Juggermatt. He led his own band occasionally, but for the most part freelanced both on the international tour circuit and in the studios.

He came to England in 1989 with Berry and trombonist Buster Cooper, and the following year toured in the US with other musicians of his generation, including Doc Cheatham and Jay MacShann. However, illness hampered his playing career in the last two years.

Marshall Royal was married to the entertainer Evelyn Williamson.

JOSEF BRAUN

Josef Braun, accountant and finance director, died on May 4 aged 66. He was born in Wiesbaden, Germany, on March 23, 1929.

JOSEF BRAUN started his career as a "financial man" (as he always described himself) with Unilever in Germany in 1955. The European Union was then way in the distance but the war with Germany was a recent memory.

At the time it was the policy of Unilever, and of many other European multinational companies, to avoid appointing German nationals to any senior post outside Germany. As with so much of his life, however, "Seppel" Braun was the exception. Not only were his talents as a financial man quickly recognised but it was also discovered that he had an extraordinary ability to get on well with anyone and everybody without losing his authority or his attractiveness as a personality.

Josef Braun was the son of an engineer in the public service. After attending local schools, he read economics at Mainz University and was awarded a doctorate in economics in 1958.

Five years later Unilever in Germany decided to send Braun to London for about two years on secondment to the Unilever internal audit department. That decision was inspired. It led to some 22 years of distinguished service to the Unilever Group worldwide and to the repairing and building of bridges between German and English people.

Braun had not been in London long before he was asked to stay on. When invited to become the deputy head of the Unilever internal audit department in England, he asked whether British staff would accept a German as their superior. He was told that the British were fair and that, if he was good at his job, they would respect him and all would be well.

He accepted the appointment and it was a great success. He then moved to the Unilever advertising arm, Lintas International, which operated in 28 countries. He became World Finance Director and travelled the globe, covering some three million air miles outside Europe alone.

In 1970, his aeroplane was hijacked in Brazil by armed terrorists. As was typical of his approach, even to serious problems, he was calm and relaxed and fell asleep in the aircraft until rescued with the other passengers in a shoot-out. He was uninjured.

In 1985, at the age of 57, Braun took early retirement since there were already signs that his health was weakening. He then spent a happy and quiet retirement with his wife, Erika, whom he married in 1957, at their delightful home in Chislehurst and Mainz, Germany.

He collected stamps, tended his gardens, enjoyed listening to classical music and parading of his favourite wines. He was a generous host and a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife and his son and daughter.

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MR. GRAHAM ENDS HIS MISSION

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 24 1995

Lloyd's offers names £2.8bn

Further heavy loss revealed for 1992

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London yesterday unveiled a £2.8 billion settlement package — its second attempt to end the mass of legal actions bought by more than 17,000 names.

The news came as the insurance market revealed losses of £1.2 billion for the 1992 year of account, pushing the total loss borne by names in the past five years to more than £8 billion.

The offer, which is expected to include most of the market's 31,000 names, is a marked increase on the earlier £900 million offer that names rejected out of hand early last year. The revised offer forms part of a radical restructuring programme and its success is critical to the survival of the 308-year old insurance market. Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker action group representing more than 3,000 litigating names, said Lloyd's would not survive as we know it if the offer failed.

David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, unveiling the new package yesterday said it marked a "critical juncture in the history of Lloyd's".

The £2.8 billion package has been structured to favour the hardest hit names. The offer is in two parts: £800 million in cash and £2 billion in debt credits. The credits arise as a result of Lloyd's plans to write off £2 billion of debts owed by names to the society. This will be done on a basis of who needs the most help. That is, those names that cannot pay their debts will be helped by better off names. Conversely, those names that fall into the "can pay, but won't pay" category will not benefit from the debt write-offs and will face legal action from Lloyd's and the market's agencies.

Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, said: "There is

mutualisation at the heart of this deal."

The balance of £800 million is the cash element and is being funded by the errors and omission insurers, who provided insurance cover to the managing and members' agents being sued by names for negligence. This sum may rise if other parties, such as auditors who also face legal action, join the party. Mr Middleton said as a result of the package "some names will get very significant profits while some will get very significant debt write-offs. Between those, there will be a whole spectrum of names".

The basis of distributing the £2.8 billion will be worked out over the next few months and names will hear their individual positions in October. At the same time, names will hear how much they can expect to pay to offload their old-year debts to Equitas, a new reinsurance company. Equitas will take over from names all liabilities for policies written up to the end of 1992 in return for a fee. This fee will be funded by the debt credits.

The £1.2 billion loss reported yesterday excludes £240 million that is calculated to have been counted for twice. That is, different syndicates reserve for the same liability due to uncertainty over where it will fall. The loss also excludes names' personal expenses of £222 million. The loss relates to 1992 when the insurance market was hit by the Andrew and Iniki hurricanes and the City of London IRA bombings. Mr Middleton said £836 million of the loss was due to strengthening of reserves for claims on old policies, principally asbestos and pollution. Of this £836 million, 40 per cent fell on only seven syndicates, he said.



Survival plan: Lloyd's, which revealed its latest offer yesterday, is hoping to bring litigation by names to an end

Names greet new offer as victory

LLOYD'S of London's £2.8 billion settlement package was greeted as a victory for names by leading action group chairmen yesterday (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Michael Deeny, chairman of the litigating names' committee representing more than 17,000 names, said: "We welcome the proposal. We regard it as a victory for the names and an essential development for seeing a solvent future for Lloyd's". However, Mr Deeny, also chairman of the Gooda Walker action group, said that it was only a plan and that "until we get a legally binding offer the litigation will continue".

His sentiments were shared by other action group chairmen. Damon de

Laszlo, chairman of the Feltrin names association, said: "We will continue our legal actions until an acceptable offer is made firm to our members. The exact terms and timing of the proposals are critical not only to our members, but also to the survival of Lloyd's".

Both the Gooda Walker action group and the Feltrin names association have successfully proved in the High Court that their names were the victims of negligent underwriting. Substantial court awards are expected as a result.

One area of the plan that angered names' action groups was the £200 million contribution from the Lloyd's members' and managing agencies. This

was branded "inadequate" given the billions of pounds of profit commissions they have collected over the years. The agents also stand to earn profit commissions of £600 million from the 1993, 1994 and 1995 years of account, part of which will be collected at the end of this year as a result of Lloyd's plan to switch from three-year to one-year accounting.

Christopher Messer, chairman of Janzen Green action group, said: "With the early close of accounts these agents will get three years' profit commission in one year. My view is that their contribution should be substantially more."

Devil in the detail, page 27

Interest strategy divides advisers

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury's panel of six independent economic forecasters is split on where interest rates should go.

Three believe that increases in the base rate from the current 6.75 per cent will be needed to keep inflation within the Government's target. Andrew Britton, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, Gavin Davies, of Goldman Sachs, and David Currie, of the London Business School, said it was a tactical error to hold rates at the May monetary meeting.

Two others — Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, and Wynne Godley, of Cambridge University — said that rates should be left unchanged, while Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University, said that rates should be cut. Professor Minford said that he expected rates to fall back to 4.75 per cent in 1998.

Even the three arguing for higher rates said that the Government "should proceed cautiously and in small steps when tightening monetary policy".

On fiscal policy, five argue that there is room for only modest tax cuts and that any more generous pre-election giveaway should be matched by cuts in public spending. Professor Minford said that large tax cuts would be justified because the economy has plenty of spare capacity and the underlying position of public finances was sound.

All six expect underlying inflation to stay in the target range of 1 per cent to 4 per cent, but the average of their forecasts suggests 2.9 per cent for the end of 1995 and 1996. This exceeds the 2.5 per cent upper limit that the Government is now aiming at by the end of this Parliament.

OECD gloom, page 24
Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3291.8	(+7.3)
Yield	4.18%	
FT-SE All shares	1017.57	(+2.77)
Nikkei	15916.15	(+127.03)
Dow Jones	4414.30	(+18.87)
S&P Composite	526.06	(+2.41)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(8%)
Long Bond	109 1/8%	(108%)
Yield	6.88%	(6.82%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	8 1/8%	(8 1/4%)
12-month Interbank	10 1/8%	(10 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.5665	(1.5740)
London	1.5665	(1.5725)
DM	2.2853	(2.2825)
FF	5.0410	(5.0280)
Sfr	1.8853	(1.8870)
Yen	128.55	(127.63)
S index	84.8	(85.0)

US DOLLAR

London	1.4460	(1.4407)
DM	5.1332	(5.1110)
FF	1.2045	(1.1995)
Sfr	87.55	(87.35)
S index	80.1	(80.4)

Tokyo close Yen 87.31

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$18.10	(\$18.15)
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EURO

London close	\$82.45	(\$82.55)
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* denotes midday trading price

Thorn option

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI, accompanied higher pre-exceptional full-year profits with an admission that the company will consider the option of separating the three businesses that comprise the music to rentals group. Page 25, Tempus 26

Jobs worry

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says that unemployment is likely to remain high in major industrialised countries in spite of a rise in employment. Page 24

Rowland v Lonrho is cancelled

TINY ROWLAND, who vowed to sue after being ousted as a Lonrho director in a boardroom coup on March 2 and fired as an employee, has withdrawn all legal action (Colin Campbell writes).

In a statement issued by Cameron Markby Hewitt, the solicitor, Mr Rowland said that he has withdrawn his action against Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive, and Lonrho. "I'm buggered if I'm going to spend the summer suing Bock," he said.

His action against Mr Bock was to enforce an agreement for cancellation of put and call options over his Lonrho shares. Mr Rowland said the case had lost commercial value since the court timetable would leave it unresolved until the options fall due for exercise.

GEC and British Aerospace free to renew bids for VSEL

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GEC and British Aerospace have been cleared to renew their bids for VSEL, the Barrow shipbuilder. Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, overruled a majority report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that said a GEC takeover would be against the public interest.

Instead, Mr Heseltine endorsed a dissenting report by two members of the six-man MMC inquiry, Professor Patrick Minford, the Liverpool economist, and Sir Archibald Forster, a former chairman of Esso.

They concluded that a GEC takeover would make no difference to competition because there was insufficient work available from the Ministry of Defence to support both VSEL and GEC's own Yarrow Ship-

builders' yard on the Clyde. The Ministry of Defence agreed. Rationalisation would ultimately allow savings of £34 million, the report said.

Mr Heseltine's decision, after a four-month inquiry, clears the way for further consolidation of the United Kingdom's defence industry. BAE, Britain's biggest defence company, offered £570 million for VSEL last year in a drive to extend the scope of its activities as a prime contractor to the Ministry of Defence. GEC, BAE's chief rival, bid £532 million before Mr Heseltine intervened.

GEC last night welcomed Mr Heseltine's "decision that financial market forces should not be prevented from taking their course in this case".

British Aerospace said it was evaluating its position

with respect to any new bid for VSEL. Both are keen to see figures from VSEL, which is expected today to announce pre-tax profits of £64 million for the year to March 31, together with a rise in net cash to about £400 million.

In a statement to Parliament, Mr Heseltine said that he had to give particular weight to the views of the Ministry of Defence as the customer. He had concluded that "the public interest would be best served by allowing the market to determine the future ownership of VSEL and hence the industrial structure best adapted to meet the UK's foreseeable naval defence needs".

Cutbacks in warship purchases since the end of the Cold War have already forced the closure of Swan Hunter on

Tyneside and VSEL's Cammell Laird yard on Merseyside. Because the Vosper Thornycroft yard at Southampton has secured a five-year order book for MoD and export work, the battle for future orders is concentrated at Yarrow and Barrow.

Lord Weinstock, GEC's managing director, has promised to keep Yarrow open for seven years if he wins control of VSEL. Although a GEC-led consortium is bidding against VSEL for the £2.5 billion contract to supply five Trafalgar nuclear-powered submarines, the Ministry of Defence said that a GEC takeover might make it easier to combine the best features of both offers.

Defence strategy, page 24
Pennington, page 25

M&S figures fail to impress City

By CARL MORTSHED

SIR Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, gave a robust defence of the retailer's performance as the City marked down M&S shares over a disappointing profits outcome and weaker second-half sales figures.

A tough trading environment, particularly in menswear and home furnishings, combined with a late Easter that fell after the financial period, contributed an 8.5 per cent profits rise to £924 million, some £20 million adrift of City forecasts.

Sir Richard said that growth should be compared over two years because of the 53rd week in the previous year. On a two-year view, profits grew 25 per cent, he said with a 27 per cent increase in the dividend to 10.3p. "Shareholders will be more concerned when the shares are marked down 10p because

WH Smith gives a profit warning," he said. Sir Richard described the clothing performance which grew 6.2 per cent on a comparable basis as outstanding and indicated that M&S was taking market share when the figure was compared with 4 per cent growth in the market. In food, M&S is maintaining its market share with sales growth of 4.9 per cent on a 52-week comparison.

He described the trading environment as tough: "The days when it was easy to make profits are over," he said. "Today's consumer wants everything, not just price or value for money," he explained. "They want the right product in the right colour."

Home furnishings suffered from the poor housing market, showing marginal sales growth in the year to March 31, but Sir Richard said the company would not chase sales. He said Sunday

trading had produced no improvement in profits, the extra revenue being generated at the expense of trading in the rest of the week and the cost of double-time payments to staff.

Brooks Brothers, the upmarket US menswear retailer, suffered a sharp setback. Profits fell from £14.8 million to £5.9 million. Sir Richard blamed the result on a failure to respond to fashion. "I understand it is acceptable now on Wall Street to go to the office in a blazer and jeans on Friday. We didn't pick up on that." A new chief executive has been appointed at Brooks Brothers and cuts of 20 per cent in head office manning have been made.

Financial services, including interest, contributed £48.9 million to profits, up 18 per cent. The company said M&S Card accounts now totalled 3.4 million.

Tempus, page 26



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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

Ministers to form defence industry strategy

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to formulate a national industrial and technology strategy to ensure the preservation and development of Britain's military capability.

Work has begun at the Ministry of Defence to identify key military technologies, and the Department of Trade and Industry is studying the importance of defence manufacturing to the United Kingdom economy.

The studies are a clear recogni-

tion that, in a world of falling defence budgets and ever more expensive weapons, Britain can no longer afford to remain at the forefront in every area of defence technology. In the past, Britain has retained a short, secret list of "essential technologies".

Details of the work to develop a new, explicit strategy were revealed by Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, yesterday to a cross-party Commons inquiry into procurement policy. The findings will be reported to Parliament in the autumn, he told members of the joint

inquiry by the Commons Select Committee on Defence and Trade and Industry.

Although the Government remained committed to securing value for money through competition, the MoD's responsibility for the defence industrial base now implied "a more systematic examination of the technologies and industrial capabilities we ought to sustain, either nationally, or to allow us to collaborate with others". Mr Freeman told the inquiry.

The review would "ensure key defence industrial interests are taken

into account as an integral part of our defence procurement process".

Mr Freeman's statement made plain that the shift, begun last autumn, from a hands-off procurement policy has much further to go. "We need a much improved working relationship between the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the UK defence industry," he said. "We need to share more of our forward plans with industry."

The minister's comments will delight industrialists who have complained that the Government, by

ignoring the industrial consequences of its decisions on weapons purchases, is seriously weakening Britain's ability to produce the weapons needed by the armed services. France and the United States, the chief rivals of the British defence industry, have long pursued national defence technology plans.

To begin the healing process, Mr Freeman said that the MoD planned a seminar in July for chief executives of UK defence businesses "to explain our defence technology strategy over the next ten years and to identify opportunities for collaboration".

OECD says high rates of joblessness will persist

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT is likely to remain high in major industrialised countries, and especially in Europe, in spite of a rise in employment — though fears about a jobless recovery have proved unfounded, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said last night.

But the OECD gave warning of the impact on jobs of "high" statutory minimum wages, a move that will be welcomed by the UK Government.

In its latest jobs study, the OECD — the West's leading economic think-tank, covering the developed world's 25 major economies — said yesterday that although unemployment is now edging down from its peak, policymakers will still have to "confront a major problem of high and persistent unemployment".

The jobs study, released as ministers from the major economies held their annual two-day OECD meeting, acknowledged that economic re-

covery, though now "close to maturity" in countries which were in its vanguard, has led to an increase in employment of about 1.5 per cent a year across OECD countries.

Jean-Claude Paye, OECD Secretary-General, said: "The fears, which were expressed about a 'jobless recovery' have proved largely unfounded", though he said that employment growth to date is not as strong as in past recoveries.

While unemployment overall was now falling from around 34 million, or 8 per cent of the OECD states, total labour force, the OECD said that "unemployment looks set to remain high even when the cyclical recovery is complete". It forecast that by the end of the decade unemployment will fall only to about 7 per cent — higher than its pre-recession level in 1990.

The proportion of people out of work in Europe by the year 2000 "may still be close to 9 per cent", the organisation said. Unemployment is therefore still continuing to ratchet up from cycle to cycle.

The OECD's first jobs study last year put forward a broad programme of action to deal with unemployment. It sets out further recommendations this time, including a reduction in unemployment and welfare-related benefits where they are seen to be too generous, an increase in net incomes in work through changes in taxes and benefits and a further move towards active labour market policies.

British ministers will welcome the OECD's caution over a national minimum wage. The OECD said: "High statutory minimum wages, especially when combined with high non-wage labour costs, can make it very difficult for youths and other low-skilled workers to price themselves into the labour market."

Japanese profits suffer

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

WITH THE US-Japan trade dispute set to escalate against the background of the strong yen, Japanese companies yesterday reported damage to profits while forecasting worse to come.

Toyota, the carmaker, said that its parent company profit in the nine months to the March 31 was ¥236.21 billion (£1.71 billion) on rebased figures, compared with ¥214.03 billion for the 12 months to last June. It said that it expected no further improvement in the current business year, particularly if America imposed the sanctions on luxury car imports from Japan.

The forecast profit for the year to next March is ¥200 billion, without allowing for damage from US sanctions.

Suzuki, the leading Japanese minicar maker, forecast that its operating profit for the year to next March would drop to ¥18 billion, from ¥30.5 billion for the last financial year.

Pioneer Electronic, the audio equipment maker, said group pre-tax profit slumped 71 per cent in the year to March to ¥2.8 billion.

Clinton likely to back cash for Ulster

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



Gudgin: peace dividend

BUSINESSMEN from both sides of the Irish border and from across America have descended on Washington for President Clinton's Irish American investment conference which opens today.

President Clinton is expected to announce his support for a multimillion-pound scheme for research and development projects for Ireland when he delivers a keynote address tomorrow. A series of other announcements are likely by investors in areas from retail to tourism.

The conference, which comes nine months into the IRA ceasefire, is designed to underpin the Northern Ireland peace process by channelling the unprecedented interest in the Province into investment projects. Mr Clinton said this week that the

creation of jobs was a crucial factor in securing a lasting peace. In an interview with *Ombus*, the Northern Ireland Office magazine, he said: "Jobs will help alleviate the conditions which have bred violence and despair in the past."

Northern Ireland has traditionally lagged behind the rest of the United Kingdom and is dependent on a massive subvention of more than £3 billion a year, but is currently enjoying a strong economic upturn. Unemployment has fallen to 11.8 per cent, the lowest level since 1981; manufacturing output rose nearly 7 per cent last year; and Northern Ireland's exports are growing at a faster rate than the UK average.

The optimistic outlook was underlined yesterday when Marks & Spencer announced that the food hall in its flagship store in Northern Ireland, at Sprucefield

on the edge of Belfast, outperformed all other UK branches last year. Sainsbury is expected to open eight stores in the Province, and 20 retailers are competing for six remaining outlets at Ireland's biggest shopping mall which is due to open this year in Londonderry. There have also been a series of recent job announcements in the Province ranging from high-tech South Korean companies to textile firms.

Much of the groundwork which led to the upbeat figures was laid before the IRA and loyalist ceasefires. However, Dr Graham Gudgin, of the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre, believes there are now early signs of the much-vaunted peace dividend. The Industrial Development Board, which attracts investors with generous grants has reported a 30 per cent increase in first-time visits by companies since the ceasefires.



Full speed ahead: Sam Newington, chairman of Fairline Boats, said the order book is 18 per cent ahead year-on-year, reflecting an improvement in market conditions. In the half-year to March 31, taxable profits rose to £512,000 from £350,000. Earnings were 9.8p (6.74p) and the interim dividend is 6.5p, from 5p

Extra 12,000 'face eviction'

By ROBERT MILLER

UP TO 12,000 more people face having their homes repossessed in the first full year after the Government cuts income support payments in October, according to private estimates circulating in the £350 billion mortgage industry. At present, some 1,000 homes are taken into possession by lenders every week.

At a meeting tomorrow between Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, and the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the CML will press the minister to scrap his plans to introduce the income support cuts. The CML will argue that the level of repossessions will rise after the cuts and that to make new borrowers who are subsequently made redundant or become too ill to work wait for up to nine months before receiving state assistance will be a severe blow to an already depressed housing market.

The CML will argue that the £200 million of savings that the Department of Social Security hopes to make through its cuts will be more than swallowed up in other areas of the social housing budget.

The DSS, however, insists that the private insurance sector will fill the gap with mortgage protection policies. A DSS spokesman said that, at tomorrow's meeting, the department "will be looking to see how far those involved in the mortgage protection market have progressed in developing these policies".

Nick Raynsford, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "There is no foundation for the Government's belief that the private sector will come to the rescue, as the Department of the Environment's own report showed last week. This pointed out that a very high proportion of homeowners in difficulty would not be helped when they fall into difficulties even if they have such policies. The DSS must wake up to the fact that there is almost universal condemnation of their proposals to take away the state safety net when people are at their most vulnerable."

Anthony Harris, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

King & Shaxson in talks over APS bid

KING & SHAXSON, the stockbroking and discount house, confirmed that it is in discussion with Allied Provincial Securities (APS), the retail stockbroking firm, with a view to making an outright bid for APS. If the deal goes ahead it would make King & Shaxson one of the largest firms of retail stockbrokers, with the added bonus of strengthening its presence in the corporate broking market.

King & Shaxson last year acquired Greig Middleton using a staggered new share issue to fund the purchase. If the APS purchase goes ahead after King & Shaxson has completed a further issue could be on the cards. City analysts believe that after the purchase of APS, which has a regional network of 19 offices, there would be a period of rationalisation leading to job losses and branch closures.

Kwik-Fit into insurance

KWIK-FIT Holdings, the car repair and parts group, is diversifying into insurance services for motorists through a joint venture with Alexander & Alexander, the insurance broker. A centre has been established in Lanarkshire to run the telephone-based service, with an initial workforce of 240. A panel of 15 insurance companies will provide underwriting capacity to cover any driver and any make of car. Kwik-Fit owns 77.5 per cent of the new venture. Alexander & Alexander 12.5 per cent and the management 10 per cent.

Jarvis Porter climbs

ACQUISITIONS helped to lift annual profits at Jarvis Porter, the specialist international label printer. In the year to February 28, the company earned £10.6 million pre-tax (£6.8 million). There was a contribution of £3.3 million from newly acquired businesses, comprising NGG in The Netherlands and Donprint International. There is a final dividend of 4.1p a share, which is due on July 28, making up for the year, lifted from 5.2p. Earnings improved to 18.1p a share from 14.1p. The shares rose 4p to 271p yesterday.

Hughes edges ahead

PROFITS at TJ Hughes, the discount department store operator based in the North West, were £1.62 million before tax in the year to January 28, against £1.60 million previously, in spite of an 11 per cent rise in sales to £48.5 million, from £43.5 million. The company said that profits were held back by higher than expected stock shrinkage, at a cost of £250,000. A final dividend of 1.8p a share, due on July 21, lifts the total to 2.65p from 2.5p, payable from earnings of 5.43p a share (5.45p last time).

Tunstall raises interim

TUNSTALL GROUP, which supplies emergency communications systems, said trading prospects continued to improve in the second half. The company has increased the interim dividend to 1.49p a share, from 1.35p, after achieving an 11.2 per cent rise in operating profits to £3.6 million, from £3.2 million, in the six months to March 31. At the pre-tax level, profits were £5.03 million, which included a £1.5 million credit arising from a successful claim against Anchor Line. Actual earnings were 11.5p a share, compared with 7p last time.

Record for Sanderson

SANDERSON ELECTRONICS, the supplier of computer application software and hardware products, earned record pre-tax profits of £2.8 million in the half year to March 31 (£2.1 million). Earnings rose to 4.6p a share (4p) and the interim dividend is 1.8p (1.5p), due on July 3. Turnover improved to £27.1 million (£14.2 million), with annual recurring revenues from software licence fees and service and support contracts providing £9 million. Sanderson Pacific, the 80 per cent-owned US subsidiary, contributed £578,000 to operating profits.

McLeod Russel to sell

MCLEOD RUSSEL HOLDINGS, the specialist industrial group, proposes to sell its property trading and investment activities, which had a total net book value of £8.6 million at March 31. Funds raised will be used to finance the growth of the company's coatings and air filtration businesses. McLeod is pegging the interim dividend for the six months to March 31 at 2.75p a share in spite of an increase in profits to £2.86 million before tax from £2.1 million. Earnings were 3.7p a share (2.81p). The shares rose 2p to 140p.

HK currency peg to stay

HONG KONG will adhere to its monetary arrangements, which link the local dollar to the US currency at a fixed rate, after 1997, when the British colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty, Donald Tsang, Financial Secretary-designate, said in London yesterday (Colin Narbrough writes).

He said the system had given Hong Kong a stability that was vital to preserve, and that China fully appreciated the importance of that stability to Hong Kong's economic future. Furthermore, the Hong Kong dollar was now widely used as a parallel currency in southern China, involving up to a quarter of the total amount of Hong Kong dollars in issue.

TOURIST

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Austria Sch	16.23	15.40
Belgium Fr	40.81	40.81
Canada \$	2.257	1.318
Cyprus Cyp£	0.786	0.781
Denmark Kr	8.47	5.46
Finland Mk	7.49	5.46
France Fr	6.44	2.29
Germany Dr	2.42	2.29
Greece Dr	381.00	382.00
Hong Kong \$	12.81	11.87
Ireland Ir	1.03	0.65
Israel	5.2753	4.080
Italy Lit	2745.00	2550.00
Japan Yen	151.50	155.00
Malta	0.603	0.620
Netherlands Gld	2.886	2.45
Norway Kr	10.69	9.88
Portugal Esc	248.00	280.00
S Africa Rd	ret.	5.38
Spain Ptas	206.00	160.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	11.50
Switzerland Fr	2.02	0.75
Turkey Lira	ret.	6700.00
USA \$	1.671	1.56

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Consolidation the only target for weapons industry Lottery profits a good bet No truce among economists

Defence of the Realm

BRITAIN'S defence procurement policy has reached a turning point.

During the past decade, the defence industry has been the target of real competition on the bloated defence sector by the hard-bitten Sir Peter Levene has wrought a remarkable transformation.

The switch from costly cost-plus contracts has driven many companies out of business, or out of the sector. Consolidation and specialisation have reduced the number vying for orders.

The more recent policy of appointing a private sector prime contractor to oversee even the largest programmes has increased the need for large, well-funded groups with strong project management skills.

Rival offers for VSEL, the Barrow warship builder, by British Aerospace and GEC were a logical market response to those pressures.

In its reports on the suitability of either to own VSEL, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has charted the forces at work and the limits to a competitive policy.

As the Ministry of Defence acknowledges in its evidence, Britain now has only one supplier for many pieces of equipment. Some programmes — at first for new aircraft and now for new frigates — have become so expensive that Britain finds col-

laboration with other nations necessary to achieve economies of scale.

Defence manufacturers have been increasingly alarmed that unless the industrial implications of major orders are thought through, Britain will fast lose the capacity to make weapons to defend itself.

The MMC inquiry has allowed the MoD to state publicly exactly where it believes its interests now lie. Its evidence says that competition has enabled Britain to develop the most cost-competitive warship industry in the world.

The ministry believes that its monopolistic purchasing power can guarantee value for money for the taxpayer. But: "It was increasingly hard to justify the additional costs and overheads associated with the maintenance of competition, given that for the foreseeable future the small and reducing UK naval programme would not be capable of providing an adequate loading for the capacity that currently existed."

The way is now clear for substantial consolidation among other areas of defence manufac-

turing where there is surplus capacity and companies have inadequate capital resources to act as prime contractors on modern defence projects, such as armoured vehicles and missile systems.

Heseltine's decision should be seen, however, to clear the way for a combination of GEC and British Aerospace. The MoD's main concern should now be to ensure a choice of well-capitalised prime contractors for any large programme.

A GEC-BAE merger would simply force the MoD to search for other prime contractors, if necessary from overseas.

Fishing for sardines in Camelot's wake

THE CABINET courted trouble when, needlessly and eccentrically, it created the National Lottery as a new statutory private monopoly. The skills of Camelot, the chosen licensee, seemed to justify that choice. In its own terms, the lottery has been a terrific success, taking more than £100 million a week

PENNINGTON



and creating jackpot prizes several times the £2 million its promoters envisaged. But the set-up has made government and regulator vulnerable to critics of anything remotely fishy.

To coin a gallicism, when the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they expect sardines to be thrown into the sea. The high catches made by HMS Lottery, no longer of interest in themselves, are focusing attention on the rising flow of sardines appearing in its wake. Bickering among winners, suicide of a loser and the Churchill letters purchase fill the human interest slot. Social concern is aroused by the fall in charitable giving and exclusion of medical charities from first round disbursements.

In the daily business news, any consumer company feeling the pinch, from football pools to cinemas, can blame the lottery for netting consumer spending.

Impending publication of Camelot's first financial results, including directors' pay, will see it graduate to the fashionable "greedy private utility" sector. Public response has been far greater than prospectuses of would-be licensees projected, or than Ofwat therefore assumed. Most members of the consortium, except Cadbury-Schweppes, might have been content to profit most from supply contracts. Instead, the higher percentage take in the early period will allow Camelot to show a profit from the start and recoup its £100 million plus investment in double-quick time.

Unless lottery fever abates, Camelot will prove an outstanding investment and cash flow in later years will be embarrassingly rich. But the political fire is unlikely to die down and the Government and regulator will find it difficult to ignore calls for action. Contracting the lottery out shifted risk to

the private sector. Success is bringing high rewards to Camelot. Critics should ponder if they would have preferred failure.

The wise men turn tribal

THE wise men have never been less than honourable and committed to their task of advising the Government on policy since they burst on the scene in late 1992 amid the wreckage of sterling's ERM misadventure. But yesterday's report from the six added little to the current economic debate for a reason that was clear on the day the panel was formed. Representatives from the Friedmanite and Keynesian ends of the economic spectrum were chosen for ideological fairness while stalwarts of the often institutional middle ground were supposed to give the group ballast.

That was fine for an airing of a wide range of views. For coherent advice to the Government, it was pretty useless. It has suited successive Chancellors well. The trouble — and this applies

to most economists — is that economics is tribal. There are inflation hawks and inflation doves and they are always biased towards their own instincts. There are those exclusively wedded to the runes of money supply who are convinced that nothing else matters that much. Others have always felt uneasy about pure monetarism and now regard it as dangerous hokum.

Patrick Minford and Tim Congdon have, from day one, been more inclined towards lower interest rates than the others because, since the panel was formed, financial and money indicators of the economy have been weak. It has been that type of recovery. Wynne Godley has joined them from a totally different angle, arguing for lower rates on the grounds that whatever growth there is in the economy, it is not enough. Call them the Cavaliers.

Two others — Andrew Britton and David Currie — represent establishment, middle-of-the-road forecasting institutions which rarely stick their necks out but have an ingrained queasiness about inflation. Gavyn Davies, whether he likes it or not, is also part of the establishment. Call them the Roundheads. As history shows, the ideological divide between the Cavaliers and Roundheads was too wide for them to reach any meaningful truce.

Production problems hit Readicut

PROFITS at Readicut International, the specialist textiles company, fell to £14 million before tax last year from £20.9 million (Martin Barrow writes).

The downturn in the 12 months to the March 31 was blamed on production problems at Textile Bonding, a subsidiary of the furnishing and household textiles division, and a trading loss at Plasticisers Engineering in the yarns and fibres division. Comparable profits in the previous 12 months also benefited from a one-off profit of £3.9 million on disposals.

Difficult trading conditions and an increase in raw material costs caused a fall in operating profits to £14.97 million from £18.5 million. The total dividend stays at 44p a share, with an unchanged 2.8p final, due August 12. Earnings fell to 4.68p a share from 5.83p. The shares eased 24p to 68p yesterday.

Thorn shares advance as investors scent break-up

By MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in Thorn EMI, the music to rentals group that has been one of the strongest stock market performers in recent months, were on an upward track again yesterday after investors scented a lucrative break-up of the group.

Thorn, reporting full-year figures, suggested to the market that a demerger might again be on the cards, an idea sufficient to reverse an earlier slide in the shares, which ended up 10p at £12.20p.

Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn chairman, said the company would no doubt look at the option of separating the three businesses that comprise the group this year to see if this could increase shareholder value. But he added: "There's no demerger on the agenda." Such an exercise would, in any

event, take well over a year to organise, he said.

Thorn's figures for the year to March 31 were a little ahead of City expectations, but they were affected by one-off items. The group implied some slackening in the rate of dividend rises. On a pre-tax basis ahead of exceptional items, Thorn reported £423.6 million, a 23 per cent rise on the figure of £344.2 million reported last year, but a total of £152.5 million of one-offs dragged the reported figure back to £271.1 million, down from a comparable £326.5 million.

The exceptional items were to cover non-core disposals and the closure of Rumbelows, the retail operation. The final dividend is up by 1.75p to 26.75p, making a total increase from 34p to 36.5p.

paid out of adjusted earnings of 62.5p. Thorn's music division, bolstered by a total of 30 albums that achieved sales of more than 1 million apiece, pushed operating profits ahead from £246 million to £295 million.

The Thorn rental business, which drove return on sales ahead from 8.7 to 9.6 per cent, saw profits rise from £129 million to £152 million. The HMV retail operation jumped from £6.1 million to £14 million as recent openings came on stream and the average size of the stores increased. Now within this division is the Dillons chain of bookstores, which is expected to make a "small positive contribution" to the current year.

Thorn shares have been pushed ahead in recent weeks

by speculation that the huge American Walt Disney corporation is looking to buy the music division. Sir Colin played down any suggestion of a sale. "Everybody expresses interest in that business," he said. "I have banks who tell me there's a huge interest out there — but nobody's made me a fair offer." He said that the rumours had emerged from Los Angeles music business circles.

Thorn yesterday announced five alliances in new technology and multimedia areas, including links with Virgin Interactive Entertainment, for the development of multimedia software, and a technology venture with Apple Computer, of America.

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Time aims to sell off music stake

TIME WARNER, the American media conglomerate, wants to sell a 49 per cent stake in Warner Chappell, the world's largest music publisher, to reduce debt (Eric Reguly writes).

Warner Chappell, whose British office is one of the largest parts of the business, has turnover of about \$500 million and estimated profits of \$125 million. Its value has been estimated at \$1 billion. The company owns the copyrights to music, including the Frank Sinatra catalogue, going back decades. Time Warner would not comment on the attempted sale which is one of several efforts by the conglomerate to reduce the debt taken on five years ago when Time and Warner Communications completed their \$14 billion merger.

The company reported pre-

Overseas boost for North West Water

By ERIC REGULY

THE international operations of North West Water will produce stronger results in the next few years after having made their first contribution to group profits in 1994-95, the company said yesterday.

Water projects in Mexico, Malaysia and Australia earned £3 million in the year to March 31. The profits would have been higher but for Mexico's peso crisis and construction delays caused by the Malaysian election. A £160 million project in Bangkok has also been delayed, which may lead to losses.

North West hopes to earn its first income from the US this year. It recently bid to operate a municipal water franchise in New Jersey for a 20-year period. Profits from the contract could reach as much as £4 million a year, Brian Staples, chief executive, said.

The company reported pre-

tax profits of £284 million for the year to March 31, up 5.6 per cent from the previous year.

Earnings per share rose 8.5 per cent to 72.8p while turnover, propelled by new domestic connections, was up 9.5 per cent to £1 billion.

A final dividend of 17.2p will be paid on October 3, making the total dividend 25.5p, up 10.75 per cent. A special dividend of 3.8p will be paid at the same time.

The dividend is part of a five-year package that will hand back £180 million to shareholders and customers over the next five years.

Customers will begin to receive their annual £6.50 rebates by Giro cheque this week.

North West shares rose 5p to 583p.

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David Codling, chief executive of Hozelock, at the Chelsea Flower Show this week.

Hozelock reaps rewards

By MARTIN BARROW

HOZELOCK GROUP, the supplier of specialist garden products, is making strong progress in continental European markets as it seeks to replicate its strong UK position.

Pre-season shipments were up 54 per cent year-on-year, helped by the establishment of a subsidiary in The Netherlands and the purchase of the company's Swedish distributor. Hozelock already has a subsidiary in France.

Yesterday the company reported a rise in taxable profits to £2.9 million from £2 million in the half-year to April 1, with earnings of 7.8p a share, up from 5.3p. The interim dividend is 2.7p, up from 2.3p.

Turnover improved to £18.4 million from £14.3 million. David Codling, chief executive, said sales of watering products advanced 30 per cent in a market that grew 28 per cent year-on-year. Sales of aquatic products, mainly for garden ponds, rose 45 per cent. In spite of substantial increases in raw material costs, net margins were maintained through a combination of volume-related efficiency gains and limited increases in selling prices.

Cash balances were £3.9 million at the end of March, with the main selling period still to come. Hozelock shares rose 8p to 319p.

US packaging group buys CMB

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

CROWN CORK & SEAL, the leading American packaging group, has signed an agreement to buy CarnaudMetalbox (CMB), the Anglo-French packaging company, to create a \$10 billion-turnover world leader in the industry.

The deal, which values the London-listed CMB at \$5.2 billion, was agreed with Compagnie Générale d'Industrie et de Participations (CGIP), CMB's largest shareholder with 46 per cent of voting rights, which becomes the merged group's main shareholder.

William Avery, chairman and president of Crown, will become the new group's chairman and chief executive, while Ernest-Antoine Selière, the CGIP

chairman and supervisory board chairman of CMB, will become a director and chair the strategic committee. World headquarters will be in Philadelphia, with the European headquarters in Paris. "We will be the world's premier packaging company," Mr Avery said.

Crown, based in Philadelphia, has traditionally not paid a dividend on its common stock, but plans to alter this policy and to declare a cash dividend in the quarter after completion of the deal.

Under the definitive agreement, the merger will be implemented through a share offer in September, accompanied by a cash option, by Crown to CMB shareholders. The choice will be between a

securities package, valued at total of £225 per share, and £125 in cash, representing a 20 per cent premium over the share price of May 22.

Craig Calle, the Crown treasurer, said the deal was not conditional on financing, regardless of how CMB shareholders choose to receive their compensation. Dividends are expected to start in the first quarter of next year.

Crown, with 152 plants in 42 countries, last year had a turnover of \$4.5 billion. CMB, which was formed by the merger of Carnaud of France and Metalbox, the UK company, in 1989, operates 190 plants.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

TV broadcasters' shares suffer poor reception

THE Government's proposals on media ownership received a mixed reception in the Square Mile. Shares of the independent television broadcasters fell sharply as bid hopes faded. By contrast, the buyers came rushing in for the independent radio broadcasters.

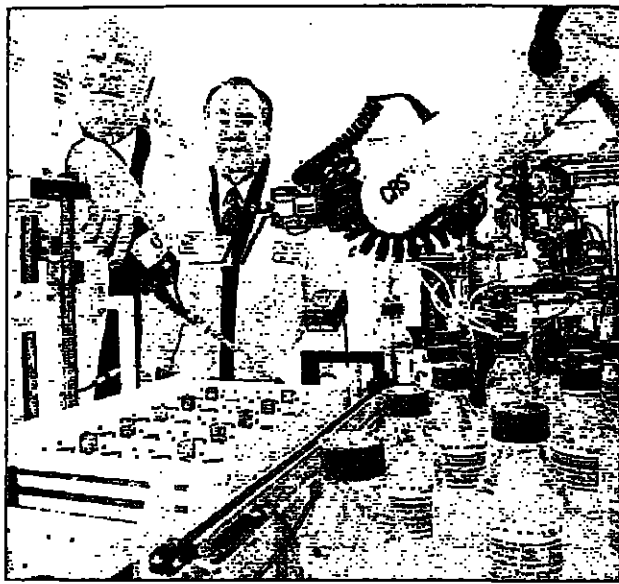
Under the proposals put forward by the Department of National Heritage, a maximum limit of 10 per cent of the total media market will be placed on any one individual or company. This would include newspapers, radio stations, and both terrestrial and satellite television. Total market share for each sector would be limited to 20 per cent.

The move came as a body blow to City speculators who had been expecting a free-for-all development, particularly among television companies. Worst hit was Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, which fell 36p to 486p as bid hopes faded. This month, Pearson sold its 14.8 per cent stake in YTV to MAI, which controls Meridian and Anglia in addition to owning a large slice of Select TV. It lighter at 274.5p. MAI finished 8.5p down at 260p.

Other losses among the television companies included Carlton Communications, reporting today, 11p to 959p, HTV, 6p to 196p, Scottish Television, 26p to 454p, and Ulster, 22p to 81p.

But it seems the radio companies will benefit from the move, with no restrictions on the number of licences they can hold. Brokers claim that such a move will bolster profits in the years to come. Capital Radio climbed 10p to 442p, Children Radio 3p to 278p, Metro Radio 8p to 453p, and Scottish Radio 9p to 233p. Shares of newspaper publishers closed mixed. Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times*, rose 3p to 586p. Mirror Group fell 4p to 136p. The Telegraph firm fell 7p to 517p. Daily Mail Trust stood still at £14.23, with News International unchanged at 315p.

Elsewhere, a late burst helped share prices to close with modest gains on the day, supported by another positive opening rise on Wall Street. But prices generally traded in narrow limits for much of the day, with investors increasingly cautious about the economy before today's revised GDP data. Most fund managers



Sir Desmond Pitcher and Brian Staples of North West Water

take the view that the next rise in base rates may be some way off, but even government advisers admit to being split about the need for another rise. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index reversed an earlier fall of almost 8 points to end the session 7.3 higher at 3,291.8 as 662 million shares were traded.

The smell of burnt fingers

Board of Trade, overturned its decision and gave the green light to both bids. The speculators now expect a fierce battle for control of the Trident submarine manufacturer between GEC and BAE. BAE finished the session 10p lower at 537p, while GEC was 3p easier at 314.5p.

Full-year figures from Marks & Spencer, the pre-

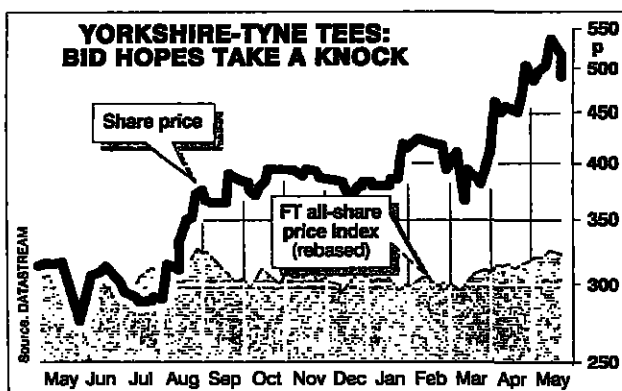
Tamaris, the nursing home operator, will today announce the acquisition of three nursing homes in Scotland. The deal double the number of beds 800, with a total of 1,000 in place before the year-end. The deal is expected to cost almost £20 million, raised by a placing and open offer. The price firmed 4p to 24p.

waited round the market in early trading as shares of VSEL, touched £16.32 before bouncing to end the day 88p higher at £17.63. This followed reports that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had recommended to block the bid from GEC, but allow the rival offer from British Aerospace to proceed.

In the event, Michael Heseltine, President of the

mier high street retailer, failed to live up to expectations, leaving the price 10.5p lower at 408.5p. The group also gave warning about current trading prospects describing them as "subdued and very competitive".

Such a statement from the likes of M&S was bound to have an adverse effect on the rest of the stores sector. Falls were recorded in Alders, 5p to



YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES: BID HOPES TAKE A KNOCK

237p. Great Universal Stores, 16p to 84p. House of Fraser, 19p to 155p. Kingfisher, 6p to 46p. Storehouse, 6p to 238p. Body Shop, 3p to 136p, and Boots, 13p to 517p. WH Smith, which rattled the City last week with a profits warning, fell a further 5p to 337p.

Thorn EMI made little impact in the City after reporting a drop in full year pre-tax profits from £326.5 million to £271.1 million. The figure was struck after exceptional charges of £152 million, mostly relating to the closure of its Rumbelow chain of stores. Once again the company denied plans to demerge its music business. The shares rose 10p to £12.20p. Last month, it refused claims that it was in talks with Walt Disney about selling the business for about £3 billion.

North West Water added 5p at 583p after reporting an rise in pre-tax profits. The group has already promised a special dividend payment of 3.8p for the next five years but indicated that it may extend the plans into the next century.

Shares of CarnaudMetalbox, the Anglo-French packaging group, soared 43.1p to £26.96 1/8 after learning of a surprise bid from Crown Cork & Seal, the US group, valuing the business at £3.3 billion.

Proudfoot, the management consultancy, fell 12p to 48p after cautioning that first-half profits will be unlikely to match the figure for the corresponding period last year.

GLF-EDGED: Prices continued to edge higher in modest trading as investors continued switching out of shorts into the longer end of the market. Investors are confident that the next rise in interest rates is some way off.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt traded in a narrow band, ranging from £106 1/8 to £106 1/16, before settling 1/8 better at £106 1/16. A total of 43,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 advanced 1/16 to 99 1/16 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 hardened 1/32 to £100 1/32.

NEW YORK: Shares maintained their gains in early trading, buoyed by bargain hunters who continued to see buying opportunities after last week's sell-off, analysts said. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 18.67 points at 4,414.30 by midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4114.30 (+18.67)
S&P Composite	526.06 (+2.41)
Nikkei Average	19716.15 (+127.03)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9302.96 (+244.12)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	426.82 (+1.19)
Sydney:	
AO	2034.0 (+24.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2080.35 (+2.82)
Singapore:	
Straits	2181.08 (+30.69)
Brussels:	
General	7636.99 (+20.44)
Paris:	
CAC 40	1965.31 (+14.29)
Zurich:	
SKA Com	644.30 (+4.00)
London:	
FT 100	3290.0 (+9.5)
FT 250	3201.4 (+7.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3605.7 (+1.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1635.0 (+2.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1352.69 (+4.97)
FT-A All Share	1617.67 (+2.77)
FT Non Financials	1750.10 (+1.07)
FT Financials	1123.8 (+0.14)
FT Govt Sec	93.64 (+0.15)
Bargains	24677
SEAQ Volume	671.90
USM (Daxsum)	154.44 (+0.02)
USS	1.5710 (+0.0033)
German Mark	2.2375 (+0.0021)
Exchange Index	162.00
Bank of England official clip (p.m.)	
ESCU	1.2152
ESR	1.0227
1990 Apr (3.3%) Jan 1987-100	

RECENT ISSUES

Brit Aero Cap US p/p	725	+
Dumyat IT An Div	105	...
Dumyat IT Mth Div	105	...
Edinburgh Japan Tst C	101	...
Finburgh World Tst C	102	...
General Cable (US)	173	-
Gus Carter (80)	95	...
Ivory/Sime UK Disc	97	...
Ivory/Sime UK Disc W31	31	...
Langdon Foods (3)	31	...
Oxy India W31	250	...
Precoat Intl (125)	135	...
Schroder Inc Gth Div	106	...
Schroder Inc Gth W31	27	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Prime People n/p (4)	2	...
Regal Hotel n/p (35)	29	...
Scott & New 95 n/p (475)	29	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RIBES:	
King Shanson	814p (+8p)
Royal Bank Scot	388p (+6p)
Young 'A'	488p (+10p)
Andrews Sykes	183p (+15p)
Eve Group	225p (+15p)
J Hobbins	519p (+7p)
Hazell	119p (+8p)
Broken Hill	823p (+8p)
Mitel	333p (+7p)
Pasion	362p (+10p)
Telepac	475p (+12p)
Chubb Sec	338p (+7p)
LEMS	202p (+8p)
Major & Co	450p (+15p)
Sage Group	955p (+15p)
C Saven	288p (+6p)
FALLS:	
Barrat Dews	182p (-7p)
Winney G	122p (-10p)
Reidland	155p (-13p)
Redland	450p (-12p)
Br Aerospace	537p (-10p)
GUS	584p (-16p)
TJ Hughes	74p (-6p)
WH Smith	336p (-6p)
Storehouse	238p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS Pressure Marks

THE unassailable Marks and Spencer was grumbling yesterday that bearish noises from other, less successful retailers, were hurting its share price. If a profit warning from a chain of newsgists is enough to cut share prices across the retail sector, M&S cannot afford to be arrogant. Consumer spending is down and, as Sir Richard Greenbury pointed out yesterday, shoppers are choosy. Whatever the St Michael brand guarantees, it is not customer loyalty.

M&S strove to dismiss the apparently weak sales figures, skewed by the late Easter, as a quirk of the calendar but the results show that shoppers fled the high street in the second half, with the rate of growth in clothing and footwear more than halved on the company's adjusted figures. Of particular concern is home furnishings, where sales fell in real terms and M&S will need to reinvent its strategy to keep sales up

in a housing market showing nil or negative growth. Profits growth of £70 million in such a climate is no mean achievement but the pressure will not ease on M&S as suppliers — impatient after years of recession — demand some relief. Overseas, the outlook is improving after a decision to sacrifice some margin to boost volumes and the company is finally taking action to turn around its disastrous investment in Brooks Brothers.

M&S will share in any pick-up in consumer spending this autumn but the bigger question government handouts but the bigger question is whether M&S margins have peaked in the UK. Suppliers will resist further pain and Sir Richard's defence of staff numbers suggest there is little scope there. With consumers unlikely to fork out more, shareholders may have to settle for slower growth.

Thorn EMI

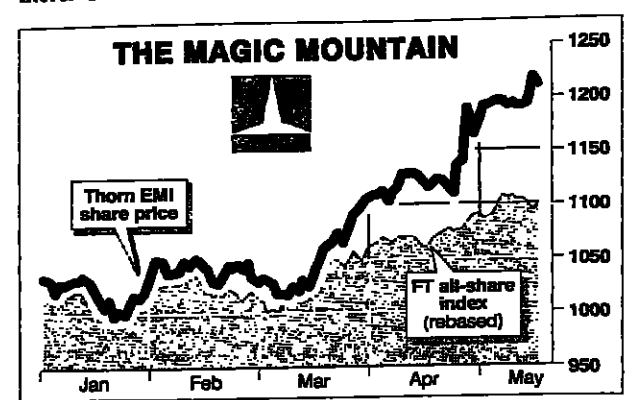
SIR Colin Southgate was back in familiar territory yesterday, wearily talking down suggestions of an imminent demerger of Thorn EMI while refusing to rule out such a move entirely. The latest impetus has come from the £1 surge in Thorn's share price since the end of last month when rumours of an approach for the music division from the Walt Disney Corporation surfaced.

The level at which Disney was said to be considering an offer, although probably below what Thorn would find acceptable, reawakened market speculation on what a stand-alone EMI would be worth. The huge back catalogue controlled by EMI is impossible to value by normal means. That would require a view to be taken of the longevity of assets that

have no clear fixed life. Instead, every new deal sets a fresh benchmark on value and ratchets up the price of other catalogues.

Whether Disney will make an offer is irrelevant, therefore, although the betting must be against it. Thorn's price is on the right side of £12 and probably staying there. Sir Colin can afford

not to be too generous with the dividend, and the company will head back to a cover of two times sooner rather than later, which left some analysts reining in their forecast this year even as they increased their profit figures. On an achievable £50 million before tax, the shares now sell on a hefty 17 times earnings.



North West Water

NORTH West Water did its best to reassure shareholders that the pricing regime has left it with a large enough margin for comfort to keep the special payouts flowing for the next five years and beyond, barring regulatory or legislative intervention. The forecast is somewhat disingenuous. Over the past five investors have understood one thing about privatised utilities: the returns are more a function of political whim than management skill. The water companies were mollycoddled to persuade investors to take them on, and last year's attempt by the regulator to rein them in left North West relatively unscathed with cut-cutting targets set by Ofwat at 1 per cent.

But the regime could change the imminent risk is a rise in interest rates, but a change of government would

be the greatest danger to investors in water stocks. Whatever the outcome of the vote, water shares will come under pressure as election day looms. The longer-term earnings of non-core business are still unresolved with a continuing weak performance from North West's process engineering businesses. The alliance with Bechtel provides more substance to North West's overseas ambitions but international contracting is scarcely a high-growth business.

CMB

SINCE its partial merger with Wheaton fell apart last September, CarnaudMetalbox has looked keen to do a deal, but yesterday's bid by Crown Cork & Seal seems to have caught it by surprise. The driving force behind the deal is Compagnie d'Industrie de Participations, which is keen to exchange its 46 per cent stake in CMB for a 24 per cent holding in the world's largest

packaging company. CMB's insistence that this is a true merger looks flimsy since William Avery, CCK's president, is becoming both chairman and chief executive of the enlarged group. CCK's bid is not particularly generous. The 20 per cent premium to market price is probably the lowest that outside investors would accept. Apart from size, there seems little to recommend the merger. CMB is mainly European and CCK largely American, so the scope for cost-savings look limited.

But the deal is unlikely to be the last in the industry. Packaging companies are cash rich but wary of adding capacity when demand may be peaking. Multinational consumer goods companies want their suppliers to be equally international, and some British packaging companies may soon be cast in the role of predators or targets.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE				
COCOA				
May	946-944	Jul	1045-1043	
Jul	950-948	Oct	1058-1055	
Sep	1060-978	Dec	1080-1075	
Oct	1000-958	Mar	1060-1080	
Nov	1000-958			
May	1004-1001	Volume	25570	
ROBUSTA COFFEE (B)				
May	2570-260	Jul	2575-2580	
Jul	2580-2540	Oct	2545-2540	
Sep	2580-2540	Dec	2545-2539	
Oct	2580-2540	Mar	2550-2554	
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)				
Reuters	May	257-50.4	Jul	257-50.4
Spot 350.5	May	257-50.4	Jul	257-50.4
Aug	312.0-314.5	Oct	312-314.5	
Sep	312.0-314.5	Dec	313-317.1	
Oct	312.0-314.5	Mar	313-317.1	
Nov	312.0-314.5	Volume	44	
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				
Average fairsheet prices in representative markets				
(g/kg live)	Gr	F	Sheep	Cattle
UK	92.80	92.80	199.01	125.45
France	92.80	92.80	194.63	125.45
Eng/Wales	95.93	95.93	119.54	122.20
Spain	95.93	95.93	119.54	122.20
Portugal	95.93	95.93	119.54	122.20
Scandinavia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
NZ	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
USA	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Japan	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
India	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
China	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
South Africa	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Argentina	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Brazil	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Chile	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Colombia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Costa Rica	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Cuba	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Dominican Republic	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Ecuador	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
El Salvador	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Guatemala	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Honduras	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Indonesia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Italy	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Kenya	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Malaysia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Mexico	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Nicaragua	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Peru	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Pakistan	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Panama	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Paraguay	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Philippines	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Poland	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Portugal	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Romania	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Russia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Saudi Arabia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Senegal	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Singapore	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Slovakia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Slovenia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
South Africa	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
South Korea	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Spain	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Sri Lanka	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Sweden	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Switzerland	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Taiwan	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Tanzania	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Thailand	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Togo	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Turkey	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Uganda	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Ukraine	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
USA	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Venezuela	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34
Zambia	91.56	91.56	122.37	125.34

THE
TIMES



CITY
DIARY

Sustenance at British Gas...

THE number of British Gas shareholders determined to attend next week's annual general meeting is growing by the hour. By 10am yesterday, 6,646 said they will be turning up at the London Arena on May 31. A week ago, the count stood at 6,210. The opportunity to secure a ringside seat to stare into the eyes of chairman Richard Giordano and chief executive Cedric Brown, as they defend high levels of executive pay, is obviously not to be missed. There may never be an agm quite like this again. There is no knowing how long the agm will last, but British Gas promises to lay on light refreshments. The way the postbag is growing, the chefs had better start cutting up more sandwiches.

... but no Xtras

THE high tea at the Halifax annual meetings has been legendary in Yorkshire. Members have travelled from far and wide and filled their handbags with scones and sandwiches — for the journey home. Not this year though, as they arrived at 2.30pm to vote on the merger of Halifax and Leeds. Members saw that there were to be no refreshments. Lack of sustenance did not deter members from discussing the merits of the takeover and the general business of the world's largest mortgage lender. The last word was spoken at almost 7pm.



Wisdom: in his heyday

DECORUM at Guildhall may be a little strained tomorrow. Among those applying for the Freedom of the City of London is Norman Wisdom, the comedian. Will he wear his famed cloth cap? Also seeking permission to drive sheep over London Bridge is Peter Selwyn Gummer, chairman of PR group Shandwick.

Indirect line

A BBC team set up within the Lloyd's building yesterday to report on latest developments, and anxious to hear both sides, had difficulty in interviewing Christopher Stockwell within the Lloyd's building. Stockwell, head of the Association of Lloyd's Names, was, reportedly, denied permission to enter. The BBC spoke to him by telephone.

Rescued

LAING & Cruickshank Investment Management, the private client firm of Credit Lyonnais Laing, yesterday scooped up three senior investment directors from Quilter Goodson — Nigel Lloyd, Richard Legge and John Nicholas — a defection which is said to have rocked parent Commercial Union. But for the efficiency of the rescue services, the broker might have been announcing that a vacancy had arisen for a chief executive. CCL's chief executive Michael Kerr-Dineen was out walking along the shore line off the Cornish coast at the weekend when he was stranded by high tide. He had to be winched to safety by helicopter.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Lloyd's names look for devil in the detail of £2.8bn offer

Sarah Bagnall
reports on the latest
attempt by the
insurance market to
settle with its names

Lloyd's of London's latest olive branch, offering £2.8 billion to settle the mass of legal actions brought by more than 17,000 names, is far from a done deal. While the increased settlement package compares favourably with the £900 million offered to names in May 1993, the chances of the latest offer being accepted hinges on exactly how the cake will be sliced up. This, however, has yet to be decided.

Tense negotiations between Lloyd's and the 44 different action groups will now kick off. But no clearer picture is expected to emerge for months and only then will it become apparent whether Lloyd's has won its battle to end the legal actions.

As Michael Deeny, chairman of the Goodie Walker Action Group, said: "The devil will be in the detail."

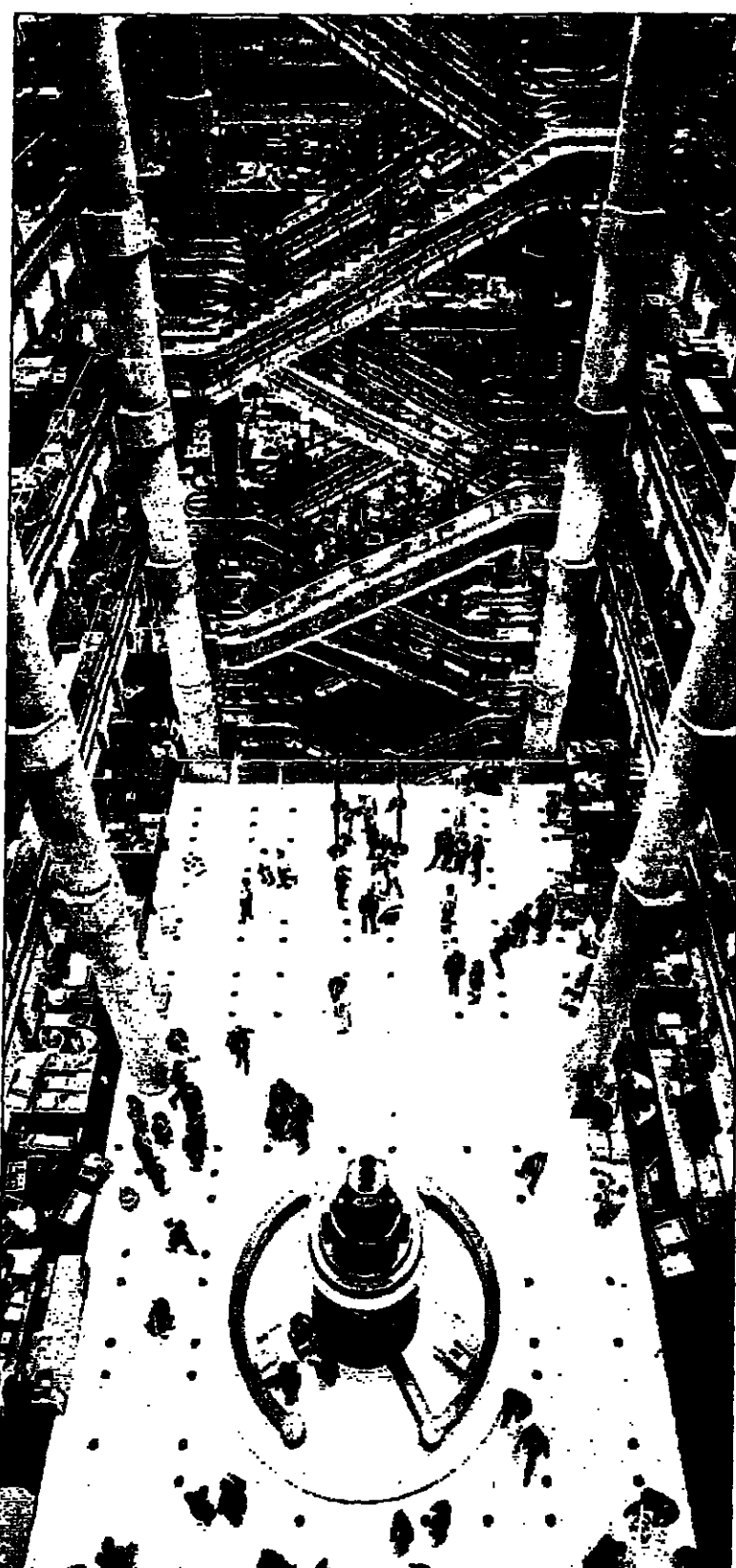
In the meantime, the best that can be done is to assess the deal on a macro level. The latest offer of £2.8 billion is more than three times larger than the original offer — appearing to vindicate the names' decision to reject the first offer and to continue the process of taking court action.

Also in the new offer's favour is that it contains a plan to cap names' losses and, theoretically, free thousands of names in the process from any further involvement with the market. The first offer foundered partly because it failed to give names any finality to their predicament. That is, names were being asked to hand over their rights to litigate without knowing what further losses were going to hit them in the future.

The latest offer has tackled this issue and includes the plan to form a new reinsurance company, Equitas, which will take on names' old-year liabilities for a fee. In theory, this process enables the names to exit the market once and for all. However, Equitas is a reinsurance company and if it were to collapse its debts would revert back to the names. Convincing names that Equitas will be adequately funded, therefore, is critical to the success of the latest offer.

Lloyd's calculates that it will cost about £5.9 billion to transfer all 1992 and prior years' liabilities from names to Equitas, of which the largest chunk is £2 billion of losses that names have not yet been asked to pay. The £5.9 billion is over and above the reserves of about £10 billion already set aside to meet these liabilities.

Of the £5.9 billion, £2.8 billion comes from the planned settlement offer. This in turn comes from various sources. About £800 million comes from errors and omissions insurers and equates to the amount the names would expect to receive from the courts. This figure is significantly less than the total damages names might be expected to win through the courts because there is a large shortfall in the amount of insurance cover available to meet the



Names' existing liabilities would pass to a new reinsurance company

awards. The sum may rise if other parties involved in litigation, such as auditors, join the party.

While the £300 million will be paid out to names as cash, the remaining £2.5 billion of the settlement package is in the form of debt credits — or debt write-offs — which are to be used to fund names' entry into Equitas. Names will get their first idea of the cost of reinsuring their liabilities to Equitas in October.

Of this £2 billion, £1.1 billion comes from writing off names' debts to a central fund. That is, at the end of this year Lloyd's expects to have £1.1 billion

of losses that have been "earmarked" against the central fund — these will be written off. A further £900 million of unpaid debts that are deemed uncollectable will also be written off.

As a result, under the plans, names who owe Lloyd's money but cannot meet their debts will have their debts written off while names deemed able to pay their debts will be pursued through the courts by Lloyd's and the Lloyd's agencies.

In the document published yesterday, entitled *Lloyd's: reconstruction and renewal*, the distribution of the £2 billion of debt credits will be "assist

those names who, by virtue of having suffered disproportionately large losses, will have the greatest difficulty in meeting their 'finality' bills".

In return for accepting the £2.8 billion settlement package names have to give up their litigation rights.

Deducting the £2.8 billion from the £5.9 billion needed to fund Equitas, leaves an estimated £3.1 billion still to find. This again comes from various sources. There is £1.5 billion of names' funds held at Lloyd's, which Lloyd's says it will draw down if names refuse to pay the £2 billion of debts that have yet to be called.

A further £800 million is being paid over by names who are still underwriting under Lloyd's plan to release early part of the profits from the 1993, 1994 and 1995 years of account. This will be achieved either by the planned move to one-year accounting or by special approval by the authorities. On top of this is an estimated £600 million that Lloyd's believes it will be able to collect from names.

The total sum will, however, be reduced by an estimated £200 million that will be paid to names who have paid all their debts to Lloyd's. If all these cash flows and accounting machinations work out, Equitas will start out life with funding of £5.5 billion, leaving a residual £400 million that is expected to be collected over time.

David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, said the successful setting up of Equitas would mean ongoing names would be ring-fenced from the past. There would be no further levies for Equitas and names would be free to leave the market if they wished. He said: "We undertake never to chase you again for debts."

The plan does not end there. Lloyd's plans to strengthen its central finances by raising up to £900 million from names, both corporate and traditional, managing and members' agents and by obtaining external finance against the society's assets.

The names are being asked to contribute £450 million in the form of a loan, the agents are offering £200 million and Lloyd's is attempting to raise a further £200 million to £250 million which could be via a sale and leaseback of the society's assets.

Mr Rowland said the reconstruction and settlement offer "marks a critical juncture in the history of Lloyd's". He added that the new Lloyd's would be free of 1992 and prior-year liabilities and a new central fund of £300 million would be set up, comprising £100 million in cash and £200 million of commitments.

The general reaction to the plan was one of cautious optimism, but action group leaders were quick to stress that there were many important details still to be thrashed out. None of the action groups are expected to stop the litigation process until they are sure a firm offer is on the table. The basis for allocating the settlement package will be revealed in October, but the deal, if successful, will still not be signed and sealed until next spring.

In order for the plan to become reality it will have to be approved through a vote. There will need to be a vote from names because the £450 million loan is in fact a levy — equal to about 1.5 per cent of capacity for the 1993, 1994 and 1995 years of account.



ANTHONY HARRIS

House prices: Hamlet minus the Prince

Not another article on house prices? I'm sorry, but yes, up to a point at least the point being the one which all the gloomy forecasts of recent days (all of them right, no doubt) seem to have missed. This is that the current housing slump should not have come as a surprise to anyone, and especially not to those paid by the building societies to forecast demand. It was in our stars all along.

The earliest projection appeared some 30 years ago, in a book published by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (which must wish that all its forecasts were so accurate). It was based not on fallible economics, but on the most reliable of all the social sciences, demographics; and it caused almost no stir in the housing industry, because all the sensible developers in those days employed demographers of their own. They knew what we (apart from Roger Bootle, who did mention the subject in passing in his forecasts) seem to have forgotten: the first step in market research is to count your prospective customers.

That is what demographers do. But nowadays we only seem to hear about them when we are thinking about the horrors of the coming pensions crisis (sometimes to comfort ourselves with the thought that things will be even worse across the Channel). Yet properly used, population studies tell us much more than economic theory, not only about pensions and housing demand but about future tax burdens and even future stock market trends. It is the changing age composition of the population that more than anything else determines not just the net demand for housing, but the flow of revenue and the demands on it, and the net supply of new savings. In Japan, it has long been the ruling obsession of economic strategists — here, a forgotten footnote. Yet it packs a punch. Consider housing, for a start. Most people set up house for the first time between the ages of 20 and 30 — a group that peaked at 8.2 million as recently as 1989. By next year, it is projected at 7.2 million, and by the turn of the millennium at only 6.4 million; it is

not until 2021 that it creeps above 7 million again. Yet all through this period the number reaching retiring age, some of whom will sell houses in working centres, is near constant at the end of this decade at around 2.5 million, and then takes off to 3.2 million in 2011. More supply, less demand: elementary.

OK, developers tend to reply to this as such: but what about rising income standards and rising divorce rates? Yes; but both these trends may have peaked. More important, the main effect of rising monetary demand is not on housing standards, but on land prices; even today very few private developments reach the space standards laid down as a minimum for council houses in the Parker-Morris report back in the 1940s. Rising standards bid up old houses, not new ones. And demographers still dominate in Germany, where the ageing process started earlier, house prices lagged incomes for decades before reformation.

Now consider taxpayers and tax burdens. The school age population, one expensive group, is at a peak now at a touch over 10.5 million (which explains some of the news), but remains pretty stable for the next 30 years. But medicine threatens an explosion of the really expensive over-75s, at 3.5 million now, 3.9 million by the end of the decade, 4.3 million by 2021 and more than 5 million by 2031. Do not believe any long-range tax promises. And then think about saving and investment: is the pension fund of UK Plc nearing maturity, the point at which contributions fall behind payments? And what does that imply for the flow of investible funds?

Disturbing questions; no answers, in this column at any rate. The whole subject is much too big for here and now. But I hope to have convinced you that this is a remarkably precise science — reliably precise, because most of the subject matter is people now alive. A short study would have enabled you to predict much of this year's news of housing slump and pensions crisis a decade or more ago. Worth some attention, surely.

Eric Reguly weighs up potential rival bidders for C&W

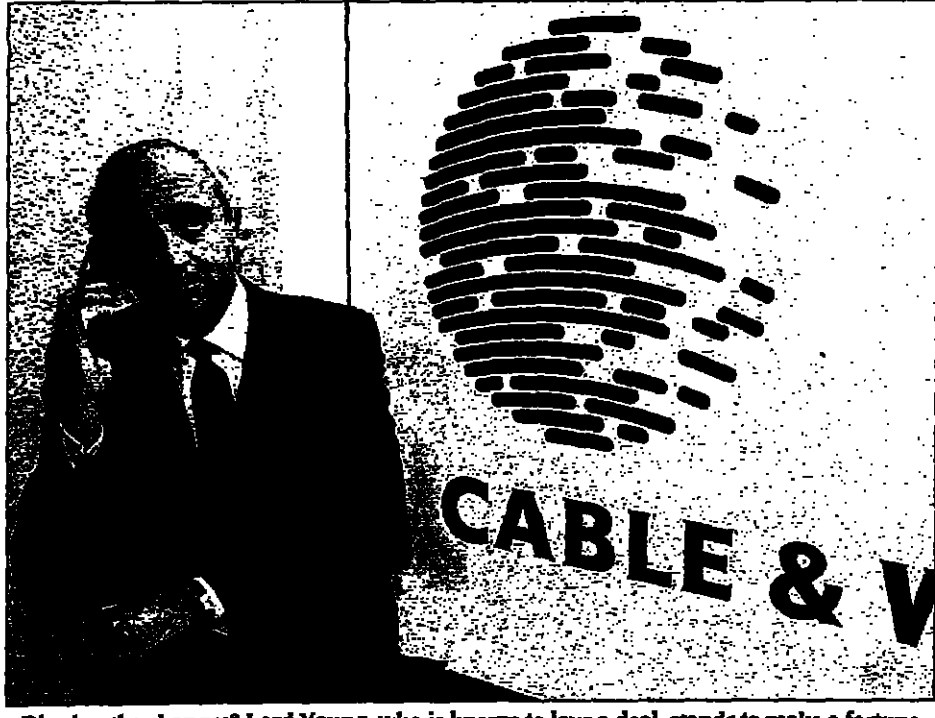
Global operator ripe for takeover

Cable and Wireless is a sitting duck. Speculation is growing in the City that C&W, which is expected to report annual pre-tax profits of about £520 million tomorrow, looms in the cross hairs of British Telecom, AT&T and possibly other groups with international ambitions and deep pockets. C&W is attractive because it is the only telecoms company that can legitimately claim to be a global operator.

The speculation intensified last week when Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, made it clear that the company's future lies in foreign markets. Domestic market share, largely because of competition from cable telephony companies, is on the wane, while the regulatory risks remain as large as ever. AT&T, America's largest overseas phone carrier, is BT's arch rival in the race to create a seamless international telecoms network. "These companies want to go global," said John Tysoe, an analyst at Strauss Turnbull Securities.

C&W would give its owner operations on five continents, ranging from a monopoly operation in the Caribbean to a controlling interest in Hong Kong Telecom, the dominant player in the world's fastest growing market. Hong Kong Telecom is by far the most valuable holding in C&W's portfolio: the market assigns relatively little worth to the rest of the company. No bid makes sense unless the new owner develops a strategy to ramp up the value of non-Hong Kong Telecom bits.

The C&W empire, whose history dates back to 1866, when Sir John Pender's Great



Ring the changes? Lord Young, who is known to love a deal, stands to make a fortune

Eastern steamship laid the first transatlantic cable, includes mobile-phone licences in Japan; a 25 per cent stake in Optus, Australia's second largest phone company; 80 per cent of Mercury Communications, joint ventures in the former Soviet Union; and a partnership with Verba, the German industrial conglomerate that is the first link in its pan-European network.

Price is the chief takeover deterrent. Based on its current trading price of about 410p a share, C&W's market value approaches £9 billion. But it is impossible to imagine that any bid of less than 550p — the shares have been as high as

478p in the past year — would warrant consideration from Lord Young, who became chairman in 1990. At 550p, an acquirer would have to pay almost £12 billion for the company and a bidding war could take it much higher.

Only two takeovers in history — KKR's purchase of RJR Nabisco for \$25 billion and Tokyo Kobe Bank's \$23 billion merger with Mitsui Bank — would be larger.

Nonetheless, buyers might be tempted to move because the shares are nowhere near their high of 538p, reached in early 1994. The current low price, and less intimidating price-to-earnings ratio, means a takeover financed with shares would be less dilutive.

On the financial front, BT has the advantage over AT&T. BT is enormously profitable — it just reported a pre-tax profit of £2.66 billion in 1994-95 — and, more importantly, its gearing is just 18 per cent. AT&T's balance sheet is less healthy because it is digesting last year's purchase of McCaw Cellular Communications for \$12.6 billion. Its gearing, depending on whether you use American or British accounting rules, ranges from 35 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

Sir Iain would not comment last week when he was asked whether BT had even evaluat-

Relief for young in falling house prices

From Mrs Stella Lilley

Sir, At last someone has dared to print what so many people must have realised, that the tremendous boom in house prices a few years ago was an anachronism and what is happening now, in falling prices, is simply restoring some sanity into what was a completely artificial situation.

As a parent of two children who have been caught in the negative equity trap, I still say thank you to Graham Searjeant (Business News, May 22) for his statement "What a

relief". So it will be to the millions of young people who may otherwise never be able to contemplate a place of their own.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA M. LILLEY,
Kingsdown Park House,
Tankerton,
Kent.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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THYSSEN AKTIENGESellschaft

United Kingdom shareholders are advised that copies of the Interim Report of the Thyssen Group for the first six months of the fiscal year 1994/95 (from October 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995) are now available from S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Paying Agency, 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.

Düsseldorf, May 1995

The Executive Board

Modest gains at the close

1995	Price	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402</
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**PUT YOURSELF
ON THE SPOT**

**RELOCATION. EXPANSION.
START-UP. INVESTMENT.**

The Heritage Minister's paper on cross-media ownership leaves some vital decisions still hanging in the air

Not so much a mouse, more a can of worms. Stephen Dorrell's long-awaited paper on cross-media ownership emerged yesterday from his Department of National Heritage to raise as many questions as it answers. For example: what practical difference will it make?

Nothing in it will make any of the concentrations of newspaper ownership immediately give up anything they now own. Nothing will allow the biggest holders of stakes in ITV to hold bigger stakes still. Nothing in it will quiet some of the fears raised by media leaders this month: about access to encryption technology, about Classic FM, about Channel 4.

But some big changes are clear amid the percentage signs and murky distinctions between primary and secondary legislation to achieve short-term and long-term goals of media regulation.

● The old barriers between print

and screen, are down: official. The media market — newspapers plus broadcasting — has been recognised to be a whole.

● Independent Television News is to remain in the control of the ITV companies. They had been under orders to sell a controlling share in ITN to outside shareholders in a matter of months. But now a battle which in recent years some fought hard and lost has been won. The ITV companies, which are ITN's biggest customer and were originally the founder of the news service, will be allowed to own more than 50 per cent of the company. This is good news for ITN (because it ensures continuity); less good for two of ITV's biggest owners, Carlton and Gra-

nada, because nothing proposed yesterday removes their obligation to reduce their own shareholdings within ITN to 20 per cent. Divestiture for them at least will be a reality.

● Local radio will never be so local again. The limit on the number of licences which can be held will be raised from 20 to 35. In other words, big radio networks will form, with pockets of local opt-outs.

● That nebulous quality, "the public interest", is defined in economic terms: the right for new companies to enter, survive and grow in the changing media environment is seen as the "best guarantee of diversity of opinion."

● The Independent Television



BRENDA MADDOX

Commission will gain in power. In the long run, says yesterday's document, a new regulator may be created to supervise cross-media ventures. But in the short run, it is the ITC which will decide whether the newly allowed acquisitions of

terrestrial television licences by British newspapers are in the public interest.

● The media are not just another industry. Diversity of opinion, which they provide, is too important to be regulated solely by the existing national anti-monopoly, pro-competition agencies.

Mr Dorrell was very insistent on this vital point. How odd, therefore, that his policy paper proposes to leave one of the most controversial issues in media concentration to existing competition law and the Office of Fair Trading. It is especially odd because David Glencross, chief executive of the (now newly powerful) ITC, this month declared that special legislation would be necessary, at home

and across Europe, to make sure that, when digital television arrives, the set-top box, or decoder, which allows access to subscription channels, remains accessible to all those who want to sell pay-TV services to the public.

Delivering the annual Goodman lecture, Mr Glencross disputed the view held by BSkyB (the satellite company partly owned by News International, parent company of *The Times*) that voluntary agreements between broadcasters will be sufficient to ensure fair entry for newcomers. He called for common access to be made legally compulsory. He raised the possibility that a broadcasting organisation (he

was too tactful to mention BSkyB by name) which not only sells its own satellite channels but also owns the set-top encryption system in widest use, would be in a position to set the price of admission into the digital pay-TV market for its potential competitors.

On this matter, Mr Dorrell said yesterday that he is willing to trust the director-general of Fair Trading. Perhaps the Heritage Secretary, whose red-rimmed eyes suggest what this policy document has cost him, is wise to leave some matters for others to decide. Still waiting on his desk are decisions on digital television, on the financing of the BBC and maybe on privacy law. That is a lot of homework to finish before his expected exit from the department whose name he may yet turn from the Ministry of Fun into the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

Cuddle up with a customer and get rich

The language of marketing rings with the jargon of war. Consumers are "targeted" through advertising "campaigns" which run in "burst". Direct marketing, which is often counterposed to advertising, merely uses different methods: it is a "rifle shot" as opposed to a "scatter gun".

All this is about to change, business executives were told yesterday at a Royal Mail conference on the emergence of personal, or one-to-one marketing. Cutting edge marketers are abandoning adversarial marketing and making love not war.

The chief proponent of this message was Don Peppers, the American marketing guru, who was making his first public appearance in Britain. Marketers, he believes, should be cuddling up close to their customers, earning their trust and collaborating with them in designing and delivering the products and services they want.

Instead of spending a fortune researching, designing, making and advertising their products, the most successful companies will turn the whole process on its head, asking individual customers to specify exactly what they want and then delivering it to them.

This will be possible, says Peppers, a former advertising executive, because of rapid

In the future, says Don Peppers, our needs will be met by companies that know us intimately. Alan Mitchell reports

advances in computing and communications technology. A combination of interactive media and computerised manufacturing technologies means that marketers will be able to mass-customise: offering coffee or tea blended just the way you like it; a swimsuit that's made to fit and flatter only you; or a car with the specific combination of colours, style, size, and added extras you alone choose.

Together, Peppers says, these advances are already beginning to turn traditional marketing structures and practices "completely upside down".

The most powerful marketing organisation of the future, he suggests, will be neither the traditional branded goods manufacturer nor the currently all-powerful retail chain. It will be a different beast altogether. In its past, it may have made or distributed goods or services, but now it derives its special power from its close and trusting relationship with consumers. They confide their needs and desires to it in the secure knowledge that their confidences will not be betrayed. Their privacy will be protected, but they will still get one of the best deals around.

How? If you want to go on a skiing holiday, the "inform-



Don Peppers has seen the future: coffee blended to your taste; swimsuits made to your shape; and tailor-made cars

ation broker" will make this selling opportunity known to travel agents and tour operators. It will then pass on the best offers that most closely match your requirements. Only if you decide to buy a

particular holiday will any travel company get to know your name and address. And when you return from the trip, the broker will ask you how it went, so that its other customers can benefit from your

experience. Likewise, if you want to get a whiter wash for your delicates, it might tell you that most customers have found that Brand X is best for the job.

Companies like this, Per-

pers says, will make their money because they have "learning relationships" with consumers. Individual customers teach the company more and more about their own preferences and needs,

and the more they do so, the better the company can provide exactly what they want, when, where, and how. Provided it can keep their trust (and maintain competitive prices and quality), it has an almost unbeatable marketing edge.

Such learning relationships may be initiated at the purchase of a single product or service. But increasingly, Peppers predicts, they will be built by "learning brokers" whose expertise lies in matching other firms' products and services to meet existing customers' requirements. Such companies will leave traditional market share wars to desperate commodity suppliers. Their focus is on "customer share" — a bigger slice of each customer's spending.

In future, Peppers suggests, instead of having companies employ product or brand managers whose job is to find customers for their products, they will employ new-style customer managers whose main task is to find products for their customers. Instead of brands vying for our cash, companies will be jostling for our trust.

If Peppers is right, many traditional marketing practices are due for an overhaul.

Instead of marketers targeting consumers to sell products they have already made, consumers will indicate their needs to marketers who will then compete to meet them. Traditional one-way advertising from company to consumer will give way to dialogues between consumers and companies.

Instead of consumers going to stores to choose from a bewildering array of products, marketers will congregate around "virtual bazaars" run by learning brokers to sell an array of sales prospects.

Peppers peppers his conversation with examples of companies which, he claims, are edging towards this brave new marketing world: from the flower seller who reminds clients when their mother-in-law's birthday is, to home shopping companies which log each transaction, building an ever-expanding database on each customer.

Fully fledged, one-to-one marketing, he concedes, is still a long way away. But just as many of the powerful brands that were spawned in the very earliest days of mass marketing and mass advertising still dominate their markets today, so those companies that are first to move beyond adversarial marketing to embrace collaboration with the customer could dominate tomorrow's marketing landscape.

Graham Allen on Labour's liking for community-based networks

Speculation about which consortium of media players will win the Channel 5 television licence has drowned out public debate about what kind of service the station might usefully offer to viewers. An early possibility that Channel 5 might be used for a network of local or city stations has faded and attention has focused on the size of the applicants' wallets and their plans to create a national entertainment service.

The avenues for creating a local TV network in the UK are not, however, closed. This summer the Department of National Heritage is expected to publish a consultation document on digital terrestrial television to allow the creation of 12 to 16 terrestrial stations.

The Labour Party believes that the digital round of bidding will permit the Independent Television Commission and the next Government to put right the missed opportunities of the past so there is adequate provision for local programming and local channels. Labour will ensure that the digital revolution can spawn many local channels. Such a shift in emphasis will, we hope, encourage the BBC and ITV to re-engineer their resources towards local broadcasting opportunities.

A Labour government would also seek to deliver an energising boost to local TV throughout Britain by encouraging Channel 5, cable television and others to innovate with quality local channels.

The case for a local or city-based network, offering some-

thing genuinely different from existing terrestrial broadcasting, is stronger than ever. Just as cable and satellite owners are realising that their viewers want more domestic programmes, so they will realise that local channels could be a unique advantage.

Local television would ensure cultural, economic, social and ethnic differences in Britain found life on the screen, democratically enabling a plurality of views to flourish. It would counter the withering of regional television and threaten the dominance of London-based, broadcasting elites. By connecting citizens to each other, local TV can regenerate a sense of community and shared identity.

Viewer demand for such a service seems to be strong. A 1988 ITC study found that 74 per cent of those involved wanted more media coverage of their locality. Some cable companies are already exploring ways of broadcasting about and with, rather than simply to, a community. Take Diamond Cable, serving a cluster of Midlands towns,

TV power to the people



Graham Allen: revolution

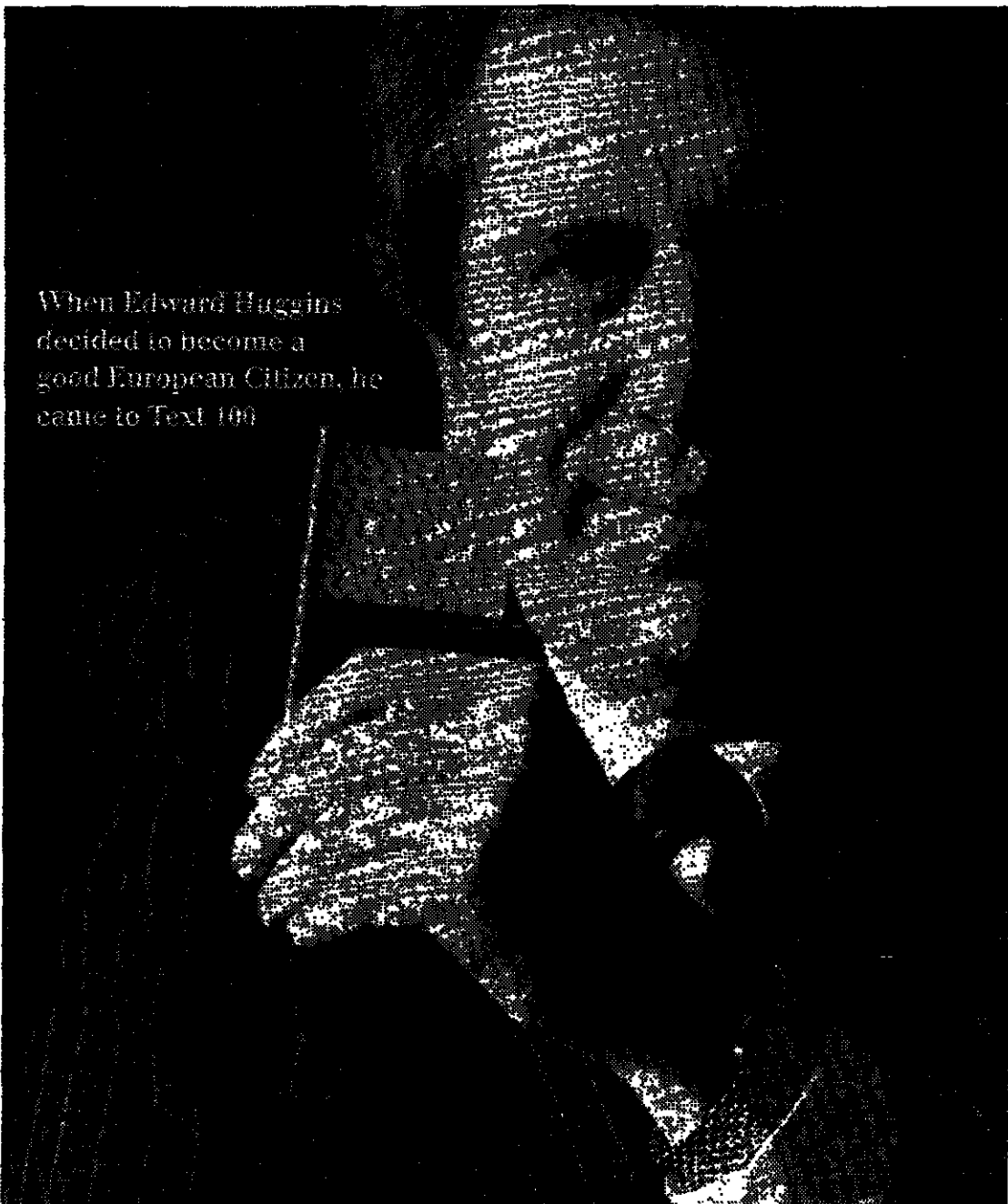
with a network enabling local opt-outs for programming of interest to specific communities. Diamond is working in partnership with Nottingham's local council, providing the facilities to make programmes about council activities for screening on a newly expanded local channel. Broadcast time is offered to local colleges, employment trainers and organisers of community events for locally made programmes.

Labour will explore ways of empowering the ITC to insist on a strong local element in cable broadcasting, particularly where cable companies are reaping rich financial rewards from accessing the streets of our communities. The ITC should also consider ways of involving local people in running local channels, blending the genuine exercising of democratic choice with commercial viability. Perhaps this could be achieved by a devolved ITC structure able to allocate local frequencies and channels.

We should look to promote universal access to local services in order to enable universal involvement in community broadcasting. Encouraging the entry of BT into the provision of entertainment services holds out the possibility of 92 per cent of the population (telephone users) accessing that which only 5 per cent (cable users) can access now, immediately making local advertising, and therefore local channels, viable.

After almost 60 years of television, we still allow a small elite to control the entirety of broadcasting to and for all 58 million of us. It is time to broaden the involvement of citizens in television, to counter the erosion of diversity in the search for mass audiences and to begin a democratic process of returning our rich broadcast culture to the needs of the local viewer.

● The author is Shadow Minister for Media.



When Edward Huggins decided to become a good European Citizen, he came to Text 100

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THE TIMES TV TOP 10: OVER 55s VERSUS UNDER 55s

May 6 and 7, 1995									
Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (millions)			
Over 55s						Over 55s	Under 55s	All 4+	
1 VSO-Celebration Concert	Sun 07	18.01	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	5.4	3.2	8.6	
2 News And Weather	Sun 07	18.00	BBC1	BBC News & CA	News	5.0	3.2	8.2	
3 Antiques Roadshow	Sun 07	17.15	BBC1	BBC Features	Lifestyle	4.9	4.0	8.9	
4 Prime Suspect	Sun 07	21.00	BBC1	BBC Features	Drama Series	4.8	4.4	9.2	
5 As Time Goes By	Sun 07	20.10	BBC	D.L. Telford	Sit-com	4.7	3.8	8.5	
6 News	Sat 06	22.03	ITV	ITN	News	4.1	3.9	7.7	
7 Songs Of Praise	Sat 06	18.25	BBC1	BBC	Religious	3.8	1.6	5.5	
8 Inspector Morse	Sat 06	20.04	ITV	Zentis Prods	Drama Series	3.7	3.2	7.2	
9 The National Lottery Live	Sat 06	19.49	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	3.4	2.6	6.0	
10 News At 5:30	Sat 07	21.01	BBC1	BBC	Documentary	3.2	2.7	6.0	
Under 55s									
1 Prime Suspect	Sun 07	21.03	ITV	Granada Television	Drama Series	4.8	8.4	13.2	
2 The National Lottery Live	Sat 06	19.49	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	3.4	6.8	10.0	
3 Bugs	Sat 06	20.08	BBC1	Carnival Films	Drama Series	2.5	6.4	8.9	
4 New Adventures Of Superman	Sat 06	18.24	BBC1	Warner	Drama	1.8	5.1	6.7	
5 Shine On Harvey Moon	Sun 07	20.20	ITV	Wendland Prods	Sit-com	2.9	5.1	8.0	
6 News	Sun 07	22.03	ITV	ITN	News	2.6	4.9	7.7	
7 Surprise Surprise	Sun 07	19.29	ITV	LWT	Entertainment	3.0	4.8	7.8	
8 News, Sport And Weather	Sat 06	20.55	BBC1	BBC News	News	2.8	4.5	7.3	
9 Stars In Their Eyes	Sat 06	19.18	ITV	Granada	Entertainment	2.9	4.8	7.4	
10 Confessions	Sat 06	19.10	BBC1	Hot Trick Prods	Entertainment	1.2	4.1	5.4	

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 01623 322829
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Prime viewing

THE BBC's coverage of VE-Day during the weekend of May 6 and 7 appears, understandably, to have been more popular with viewers old enough to remember 1945 than with the younger generation (*Alexander Pross* writes). Thanks to a high proportion of viewers aged 55 and over, BBC1's coverage of the Royal British Legion VE-Day Celebration Concert in Hyde Park, London (which included Vera Lynn and Harry Secombe) attracted 8.6 million viewers. But not even the VE-Day celebrations could eclipse *Prime Suspect*, the ITV police thriller starring Helen Mirren, which attracted 13.2 million.



OPERA

Glyndebourne strikes gold with its revival of *Ermione*, a long-neglected Rossini tragedy



POP

"A goal set and a goal met": Stevie Wonder is in top form for a good cause at the Albert Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



PROFILE

Where would the arts in Yorkshire and Humberside be without the driving force of Sir Ernest Hall?



POETRY

Philip Howard offers three laurel wreaths of approval to Penguin for reviving its modern poets series

Madness made magnificent

OPERA: Glyndebourne pulls out all the stops to do a rarely performed Rossini tragedy proud, says Rodney Milnes

Monday will surely go down in Glyndebourne's history as one of the Great Nights — the first time it has mounted one of Rossini's serious operas (and pray not the last, and done so with astounding success. As *Ermione* galloped with headlong momentum to its hair-raising finishing line you felt you had been through an emotional car-wash, buffeted from all sides by the increasingly frenzied behaviour of what must be one of the most dysfunctional cast-lists in the operatic canon.

There are several mysteries about this amazing work. After a single performance in Naples in 1819, Rossini withdrew the score. It was not performed again until 1977, and not staged until ten years later in Pesaro. Why? In a fascinating programme note Patric Schmid suggests that the opera Rossini was supposed to write for London in 1824, the score of which was mysteriously lodged in a city bank-vault for six years, may have been *Ermione* in disguise: bits of it had already turned up in other operas, and the composer was a notorious cannibaliser. That would explain why, unlike the Neapolitan successes *Mosè* and *Maometto II*, Rossini did not adapt it for the Paris stage. "It will not see the light of day until after my death," he said, and he was right.

And why did it fall in 1819? Presumably because it was "nasty modern music", in which case it is decidedly witty of Glyndebourne to be playing it cheek by jowl with Britwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong*. Even in Naples, one of the most sophisticated operatic centres of the day, *Ermione* must have sounded unexpected, experimental, dangerously radical.

The source is Racine's *Andromache*. The opera is short — just two hours — and highly concentrated. Nothing happens quite as it should. The chorus twice interrupts the overture: characters do not necessarily present themselves with cavettas; cavettas turn into free ariosos; what you think is going to be a formal solo turns into a fraught dialogue; scenes don't end with a bang, but with a recitative; an expected cabaletta is held back until you imagine it isn't going to come, and then hits you between the eyes when it does. You are forever on the edge of your seat wondering what on earth Rossini is going to do next.

And the music tells you about the characters and their feelings with — even for Rossini — uncommon power. In the aftermath of the Trojan War Pyrrhus loves his captive Andromache, widow of Hector, and blackmails her into marriage by

threatening to hand her son over to the murderous visiting Greeks, led by Orestes. Hermione, Pyrrhus's fiancée, is not pleased and orders the besotted Orestes to murder him, but has second thoughts (too late).

So there are three people in the grip of erotic obsession, their irrational behaviour underpinned with jagged, neurotic accompaniment figures, eccentric vocal intervals, murky instrumentation — you know from the music accompanying Orestes's entrance that he is pretty wonky before he has opened his mouth. Squinting piccolos that add to the hilarity of Rossini's comic finales here suggest the madness gripping the dramatic personae.

The triumph of Graham Vick's production is that he has found a way of presenting this dangerously melodramatic material to a modern audience without a hint of embarrassment. Richard Hudson's set is a tilted theatre auditorium, and his hand-some costumes are vaguely Victorian. Within this context the cast can gesture extravagantly, swoop around the stage swishing their trains and generally chew the scenery while looking perfectly at home. It is daring but it works and, as lit by Wolfgang Göbbel, it looks sumptuous.

But such expert stagecraft would be to no avail if the opera were not superbly sung. Anna Caterina Antonacci is on marvellous form in the title role, her voice seamless from smoky low notes to gleaming top, and the crazy coloratura holds no terrors for her. Diana Montague, looking wonderful in her ice-blue gown in contrast to the dangerous reds and purples of the others, sings with poised beauty as one of the few same people on stage.

Bruce Ford, one of today's leading Rossini tenors, has found new honey in his tone to match his amazing ease above the staff, and his dramatic presentation of the deranged Orestes is distinctly frightening. Maybe the Mexican tenor Jorge Lopez-Yanez concentrates on fullness of sound at the expense of fluidity, and maybe Vick presents Pyrrhus as too much the calculating tyrant, too little the obsessed lover, but if Lopez-Yanez relaxes into the run, all will be well.

The sound of the London Philharmonic in full cry comes as a shock in music last played here by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Period instruments emphasise the neurotic, quicksilver qualities of the score, but it is impossible not to be swept away by the fervour and energy of Andrew Davis's conducting.

Ermione will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on May 30, and on Channel 4 on June 3



Anna Caterina Antonacci, "her voice seamless from smoky low notes to gleaming top", in the title role and Bruce Ford, "one of today's leading Rossini tenors", as the mad Orestes in Glyndebourne's *Ermione*

Hall in a day's work and play

Michael Church tries to keep up with industrialist, property developer and concert pianist Sir Ernest Hall

Some say life begins at 40. A few put a brave face on it, and make it 50. But when a 65-year-old claims he is just entering his prime, one tends to wonder. What are we to make of Sir Ernest Hall? Consider his schedule this week: he spent Monday in Halifax at Dean Clough Mill, the gigantic "practical utopia" of which he is the founder-owner and chairman. The day's business included the induction of a new director for his American-style children's museum of science and technology, and a meeting with Northern Ballet Theatre (chairman E. Hall).

Yesterday and today he is in St Petersburg for the official unveiling of a facsimile edition of Pushkin's notebooks. Thursday: to Stockport, to a rehearsal with the pianist Mari Kodama, plus orchestra. Friday: more rehearsals, then a meeting at Yorkshire and Humberside Arts (chairman E. Hall), then a meeting with the Creative Jazz Orchestra (he plans to make Dean Clough a centre for jazz).

Saturday morning at Dean Clough, keeping tabs on an empire in which 200 companies employ 3,000 people. Saturday evening: Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, performed in Stockport by Kodama and E. Hall. "I have the feeling," he says, "that the next 15 years are going to be the most successful and creative of my life."

Any doubts one may have had about his musical excellence will have been dispelled by his recent recording of Bartók's First and Second Piano Concertos. His business acumen, which took him to the top of the weaving trade in the 1960s and made him a leader in the property-development game in the 1970s, has been proved beyond question. So what makes him run?

He is composing, and also writing a manual on piano technique. "I don't know of a good one," he says. "I had to learn things the hard way. I'd like to pass on the wisdom I've acquired."

He was born in the back streets of Bolton. "I was reputed to be able to play any tune on the mouth-organ by the age of two," he says. When he was eight, and out visiting with his parents, he found a piano and taught himself to play *The Bluebells of Scotland*. His parents lashed out 30 shillings for a piano with a cracked sounding board. He began to compose, had a piece performed on the wireless, and finally won a place at the

Royal Manchester College of Music. He graduated with a major prize for composition, but after National Service concluded he would have to earn his living in commerce. He learnt to weave, book-keep and type. "But I never stopped regarding myself as a pianist."

Once he'd got Dean Clough afloat, he turned back to music and began to play concertos with local orchestras. The turning point came when he was invited to perform with the Bulgarian violinist Vanya Milanova for a Compass Theatre production of *Amadeus*. "I suddenly realised my playing had to improve dramati-

cally," he says. Henceforth, after the nine-hour office day, he did four more hours on the Steinway at home.

At 19, he was one of four pianists chosen by Manchester to mark the anniversary of Chopin's death with a concert at which he played the Op 10 Studies. His major project now is a recording of Chopin's entire oeuvre, starting in October with the Scherzos.

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Quoting his favourite American millionaire — "Stay ignorant! Once you get smart, you know it can't be done" — Hall holds forth on the power of innocence, and the romance of creation, whether in music or bricks and mortar. So what makes him run? Talent, astuteness and will.



Hall: "The next 15 years will be my most creative"

Live and kicking aid

POP: An evening of songs in the key of a legend's life, and all in a good cause



Stevie Wonder wraps up more than 30 years of magic

Stevie Wonder
Albert Hall

ABSENT too long from a British concert stage and, consequently, feverishly anticipated by the local faithful, Stevie Wonder upped the stakes still higher in his first aside to Monday night's audience. This, the first of two performances benefiting the National Institute for the Blind, marked the realisation of a long-held ambition and of several years of planning — "a goal set and a goal met".

As such, Wonder continued, it brought him a measure of satisfaction comparable only with that occasion when the Reagan administration acceded to his campaign to have Martin Luther King's birthday recognised as an American national holiday. Cue tumultuous applause and proudly beating hearts — but also a sense of unease.

After all, the past 15 years have seen the one-time Boy Wonder judged harshly. A chart star at 12 (*Fingertips* — Pt 2), a songwriting great by 20 (*I Was Made to Love Her*, *My Cherie Amour*) and inarguably the most innovative black pop musician of his generation by 26 (that quartet of classic albums in the 1970s, *Talking Book*, *Innervisions*, *Fulfillingness' First Finale* and *Songs in the Key of Life*) he was also widely perceived as being washed up and commercially wasted at 30. Not so: the 1980s provided

him with two of his biggest sellers, the Paul McCartney duet *Ebony and Ivory* and that karaoke classic, *I Just Called to Say I Love You*. But for fans of a man once at the cutting edge of pop-soul, there was little pleasure to be taken in either.

So how would the dreadlocked man of 45 in the white two-piece approach an event of such obvious personal importance? This year's *Conversation Peace*, the first full studio album in eight years, gave grounds for cautious optimism. By no means a classic, it at least showed something of the mastery of pop composition and social comment that combined so memorably in the best of his mid-period work. And the fact that a clearly relaxed and at times almost childishly humorous Wonder planned his set list along the lines of a partial Greatest Hits ensured

the overwhelming success of what must rank as one of the most carnival-like evenings in recent Albert Hall memory. Backed variously by full orchestra, his personal band or merely his own grand piano and electronic keyboard, the singer got underway by juxtaposing new material (*Sensuous Whisper* and the particularly crowd-pleasing *Cold Chill*) with some of the least adorned but most lovely of his older songs (a stunning trio of *You and I*, *Ribbon in the Sky* and *If It's Magic*). The latter third of a two-hour show was a romp home to glory: *Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours*, *Sir Duke*, *You are the Sunshine of My Life*, *Superstition*...

Even the closing performance of *I Just Called*... supported by four visually impaired children, seemed acceptable after a build-up like that. And the only wonder remaining at the end of a triumph evening was that a score or more of his better songs remained unplayed.

ALAN JACKSON

Philip Howard hails the imminent reissue of Penguin's cheap anthologies of modern poetry

Everybody agrees that poetry is the queen of the literary genres. Well, almost everybody. I once had an editor who declared, "I hate poetry". And he sounded as though he meant it.

The precision of poetry does not suit the slapdashery of newspaper deadlines, which enforce a daily cut-off point when you have to print something less than perfect rather than a blank space. You commission the poet laureate for a poem to celebrate royal nuptials, and you end up with a distasteful throwaway about dead birds. The archives of *The Times* are thick with letters from Rudyard Kipling insisting on pettyfoggish changes in punctuation in his poems that no columnist other than a very grand old poet would (or should) be allowed to dictate.

Literary piety insists that poetry is queen. As far as we can tell, it was the earliest literary form. Modern children first learn literature through verse, as likely to be advertising jingles as nursery rhymes these days. But nobody publishes much poetry.

In one way this is a golden age for poetry. You only need to go to any literary festival or workshop to see that more people of all sorts, sexes, classes and levels are writing the stuff. The most common question from the floor once the formal talking has ceased, whatever the topic is: "Would you like to read (publish) my poetry (novel)?"

The Salamander Oasis Trust has lodged in the Imperial War Museum more than 14,000 poems written on active service by all ranks and sexes during the Second World War, the first war for the common poet(ess). An astonishing number of aspirant poets send their unsolicited work to news-

Happy return for an endangered species

papers for comment and in the faintest hope of publication.

But we are less united about reading than writing the hard stuff of literature. We prefer to write (and if possible publish) our own poetry rather than buy or read other people's. There is no generally agreed Parnassus of great poets, as there was a generation ago with Auden and Eliot. Instead there are as many hilllocks as in East Anglia, each with competing groups of poets singing to small audiences, from performance poetry to rap and concrete to rhyme. Publishers and editors stick to bottom-line 94: "There's no money in poetry."

With honourable exceptions such as Faber, OUP and Bloodaxe, they prefer frequent anthologies of old poetry with increasingly esoteric criteria for selection, such as *The Laureate Book of Humorous*

Animal Erotic Verse. But it is difficult for new poets to find a publisher. The days when Byron could wake up and find that *Childe Harold* had made him famous overnight, or when Tennyson's *Idylls of the*

All those poets out there can now read how it is done

King were top of every wedding-list, or *Four Quartets* became a best-seller seem long gone.

So three wreaths of laurel for Penguin, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary by reviving its modern poets series. This series first ran a

generation ago, with three writing poets to a slim vol at prices for the slimmest pocket. The 81 poets featured then are witnesses to the taste and ears of their editors 30 years ago. They include most of the names that have since become famous, from Elizabeth Jennings to Stevie Smith and Lawrence Durrell to Allen Ginsberg. Indeed, the Adrian Henri, Roger McGough and Brian Patten volume has not been out of print since its first publication.

The first three volumes, published tomorrow, contain selections from James Fenton, Blake Morrison and Kit Wright; Carol Ann Duffy, Vicki Feaver and Eavan Boland; and Glyn Maxwell, Mick Imlah and Peter Reading. In each volume the poets have made their own choice of their poems, and some have chosen to end their selections

with recent work not yet published.

I remember Fenton saying that, in order to get away from politics and newspapers, he was off to the Philippines as a corner of the world where odd things happened. He arrived just in time to report, with a poet's eye for the trivial that illuminates the important, the revolution that brought down the Marcoses. He also brought back for Penguin *Cat-Throat Christ* and *The Milkfish Gatherers*, as well as fine poetry from even wilder parts of the Far East and the hungry heart at home.

Penguin publishes stuff these days, from soggy Agassas to knicker-rippers, that might have shocked its founding fathers. Some of its prices disgrace the original notion of a library for the pocket of Everyman. But its modern poets, at £5 for three, are a fitting tribute to the populist Penguin principle. All those solipsistic would-be poets out there can now read how it is done. Even those who claim to hate poetry might take a look at the work of the most important writers of any generation.

Debussy and melisande DEBUSSY

25, 27 May
Leeds Grand Theatre 0113 245 9351/244 0971

30 May, 3 June
Nottingham Theatre Royal 0115 948 2626

6, 10 June
Manchester Palace Theatre 0161 242 2503
(Subject to a booking fee per ticket)
New production supported (1995) by The Friends of Opera North

TONIGHT 1

Jitterbugging with Yum-Yum: just a small nod at G&S as *Hot Mikado* arrives for a West End run

TONIGHT 2

Barely trad and hardly Strad: teenage violinist Vanessa Mae teams up with Kiki Dee on tour in Glasgow

THE TIMES ARTS

VISUAL ART

Not the Chelsea Flower Show, but close: the V&A goes all botanical with its exhibition, *Picturing Plants*

MUSIC

With a Takemitsu work in tow, Japan's brilliant new Shinsei Orchestra shows its class in Brighton

LONDON

HOT MIKADO. Opening night for a jazz and jitterbug version of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, with Nerve-Pop a trombone player with the local big band and a musical director from Washington DC, with Lawrence Hamilton as the Mikado and Raza Latham as Ko-Ko. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044). Tonight, 7pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm. mat. Sat, 2pm.

JEFF BANKS LOVES MY SISTER. Amy Brown (the dark-haired lovely in the Philadelphia Cheese commercials) opens a one-woman comedy about the pangs of sibling rivalry and a revenge set to climax on a sister's wedding day. Audley Court, London. (0171-722 5001). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Until June 3.

PLEASANT AND SILENT. The Philadelphia Orchestra has a lively pairing tonight of conductor Leonard Slatkin and the percussion virtuoso Glenn Gould's *Fantasia Concertante* on a Theme of Correll opens the performance, followed by MacMillan's *Yankee Doodle*, Enescu's *Waltz* and a Symphony No 1. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-929 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm.

DEALER'S CHOICE. Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama, funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the most of gambling. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-636 9867). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm. Sat, 8.15pm. mat. Wed, 3pm and Sat, 2pm.

THE DUCHESSES OF MALI. Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the breakdown of the mind. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Wed, 3pm. Sat, 2pm.

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NORTHAMPTON. It's all festivals, clog and ribbon dances and mother-daughter trawls as the Royal Ballet of Flanders brings its new production of *La Fille mal gardée* to town. Joseph Lazzari's choreography continues the theme of comedy and romance so popular since the ballet's creation in 1789. Donington, Guildhall Road (01604 248111). Tonight, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

GLASGOW. Teenage violin prodigy Vanessa Mae teams up with Kiki Dee on tour in Glasgow, as part of her whirlwind UK tour. Her special guest is Kiki Dee and it should be quite some show. Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (0141-222 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm.

YORK. Trust yourself to Hot Stone Shuttle, a cocktail of high-energy pop and big band sounds from Germaine to Elton and Fats Waller to Cab Calloway. Grand Inn, Opera House, Cumberland Street (01904 671818). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES. Barbican Art Centre: Graphic Retrospective, final week (0171-330 4141). ... British Museum: Mexican (0171-330 4141). ... Design Museum: Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago (0171-407 6261). Hayward: Landscapes of France: Impressionism and its Rivals (0171-330 4141). National Gallery: Rembrandt: A Portrait of a Painter (0171-330 4141). Tate: Turner in Germany: An New new gallery space (0171-487 8000). V&A: The World of the Rajah: Caricatures, Novels and Glass Galleries (0171-330 4141). Whitechapel: Guillermo Guitierrez (0171-330 4141).

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Almeida. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 1401). Mon-Sat, 8pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW. The Undead pose and prance again. Brad, Jane, Frank N. Furter and Riff-Raff back in the West End for the umpteenth time. Robert Coates and Nicholas Parsons in the company. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm. Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm.

SIMPATICO. Powerful, aching in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A twisted secret long ago connects two men now living very different lives. Not vintage Shepard but beautiful and gripping. Royal Court, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

TWELFTH NIGHT. Ian Judge's delightful production. With Deborah Bart as Malvolio and Emma Fielding as Viola, both marvellous. MTC, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Thurs, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm. mat. Wed, 3pm. Sun, 2pm.

THE SILVER LINING. Sean O'Casey's fierce and haunting anti-war drama, not seen in London since 1989. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

VICTOR AND THE LADIES. Rudolph Walker plays a widower with 18 daughters in Jerry McLeod's seafaring comedy. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

LEGENDS OF THE FALL. (15). Bogus epic about a Montana family early in the century. With Brad Pitt, Aidan Quinn and Anthony Hopkins. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

BULLETS OVER BROADWAY. (15). Daring Woody Allen comedy set in New York's theatre world. With the 1920s. With John Cusack, Chazz Palminteri, Danny DeVito. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

FRESH. (15). Brooklyn boy tries to outdo the local drug lords. Energetic ghetto drama from new director Boaz Yakin. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

HOOP DREAMS. (15). Marvelous documentary by Steve James. Fred Marzani and Peter Guber about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing basketball. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

BOYS ON THE SIDE. (15). Unapologetic women's picture with Whoopi Goldberg, Mary-Louise Parker, Drew Barrymore. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

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LONDON GALLERIES. Barbican Art Centre: Graphic Retrospective, final week (0171-330 4141). ... British Museum: Mexican (0171-330 4141). ... Design Museum: Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago (0171-407 6261). Hayward: Landscapes of France: Impressionism and its Rivals (0171-330 4141). National Gallery: Rembrandt: A Portrait of a Painter (0171-330 4141). Tate: Turner in Germany: An New new gallery space (0171-487 8000). V&A: The World of the Rajah: Caricatures, Novels and Glass Galleries (0171-330 4141). Whitechapel: Guillermo Guitierrez (0171-330 4141).

THEATRE GUIDE. Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

Almeida. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 1401). Mon-Sat, 8pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW. The Undead pose and prance again. Brad, Jane, Frank N. Furter and Riff-Raff back in the West End for the umpteenth time. Robert Coates and Nicholas Parsons in the company. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm. Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm.

SIMPATICO. Powerful, aching in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A twisted secret long ago connects two men now living very different lives. Not vintage Shepard but beautiful and gripping. Royal Court, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

TWELFTH NIGHT. Ian Judge's delightful production. With Deborah Bart as Malvolio and Emma Fielding as Viola, both marvellous. MTC, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Thurs, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm. mat. Wed, 3pm. Sun, 2pm.

THE SILVER LINING. Sean O'Casey's fierce and haunting anti-war drama, not seen in London since 1989. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

VICTOR AND THE LADIES. Rudolph Walker plays a widower with 18 daughters in Jerry McLeod's seafaring comedy. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-330 4141). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

LEGENDS OF THE FALL. (15). Bogus epic about a Montana family early in the century. With Brad Pitt, Aidan Quinn and Anthony Hopkins. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

BULLETS OVER BROADWAY. (15). Daring Woody Allen comedy set in New York's theatre world. With the 1920s. With John Cusack, Chazz Palminteri, Danny DeVito. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

FRESH. (15). Brooklyn boy tries to outdo the local drug lords. Energetic ghetto drama from new director Boaz Yakin. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

HOOP DREAMS. (15). Marvelous documentary by Steve James. Fred Marzani and Peter Guber about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing basketball. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

BOYS ON THE SIDE. (15). Unapologetic women's picture with Whoopi Goldberg, Mary-Louise Parker, Drew Barrymore. MGM, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 2pm. Sun, 2pm.

THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE. Maudie Goodman plays the twenty-year-old heroine in Frank Marzani's excellent comedy with a title. Serena Evans and Josephine Teyson play her lecherous companions. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Wed, 3pm. Sat, 2pm.

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Saying it with flowers

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor saunters through a centuries-old garden of floral art on show at the Victoria & Albert Museum

There is something about the disciplines of botanical illustration that leaves the artist curiously naked. The convention almost universally observed in the Victoria & Albert's big summer show, *Picturing Plants*, is that the plant concerned is all there is. Occasionally a butterfly may be added to the composition, to give a sense of scale. But only two or three of the pictures shown venture into creating a fully fledged landscape to set the plant in its normal habitat.

This means that for the most part the artist is out on his (or occasionally her) own, forced somehow to reconcile the claims of scientific accuracy with those of art for its own sake. But then, like the prospect of immediate death, such challenges and constraints seem to concentrate the mind remarkably. From the early 16th century to within living memory, artist after artist manages to produce stunningly beautiful images while at the same time doing all that needs to be done in terms of scientific record — at least, according to Gill Saunders, author of the finely illustrated "analytical history" that accompanies the show.

The scientific side proves unexpectedly absorbing even for visitors whose whole initial interest is in the attractions of the images as images. One thing that soon becomes clear is that the special discipline of botanical illustration has something in common with that other special discipline of draughtsmen, architectural illustration. Both of them were perfectly understandable as long as there was no ready alternative, in the shape of colour photography, let alone virtual reality engendered in a computer. But now, presum-

ably, both forms of illustration have been replaced and become unnecessary. Not quite, it transpires. Just as the architectural draughtsman can give a more vivid, because it is more imaginatively appealing, idea of a building's quality than any photograph or computer mock-up, so the botanical illustrator can arrange, select, highlight in such a way that the result is more helpful — even scientifically — than any photograph.

This seems to be recognised in the show by the choice even of pre-war seed packets, which all have on them drawings or paintings, not merely photographs of plants. Any gardener will realise that seed packet illustrations can be far more outrageously, but the drawn illustration almost always gives a clearer indication of what the plant ideally looks like.

Of course botanical illustration has its own stars, and several of them are well represented here, with originals and books (often hand-coloured) selected entirely from the V&A's archives. There are splendid examples of the work of Redoute, seen here not just as a painter of roses, and Ehret, who proves to be as expressive recording the humblest plants of the hedgerow as the most elaborate products of the horticulturalist's art.

Despite the many-coloured splendours of the later artists, some of the most telling and memorable images are drawn from the earliest herbals, such as those of Hans Weiditz (1530), or Pier Andrea Mattioli (1598), where the expressivity of black line is the most important factor. Among the Victorians there are also several examples of "nature prints", in which the



Closer to reality than a photograph: *Hollyhocks*, by Johann Jakob Walter (1604-1677)

plant itself was allowed to leave its own form on photographically sensitised paper, and a large section given over to the recording of new plant discoveries, sometimes from the hand of intrepid plant-hunters themselves.

The story peters out in the first half of the 20th century. This should not give the impression that the art is therefore dead. Any habitué of the gallery at Kew Gardens will know that is not true. But it sometimes seems there is a certain lack of confidence, perhaps concerning the continuing usefulness of botanical illustration in an age of computers. It may be up to artists such as Elizabeth Blackadder

who, when they feel like it, paint flowers with perfect precision and infectious delight, to renew the specialists' faith in what they are doing.

● *Picturing Plants* is at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-330 4441) until September 24. Gill Saunders's book is published by Zwemmer (£12.95)

of this orchestra's distinguishing features. Its silky string ensemble, was seen in the players' sentient accompaniment to Yayoi Toda's accomplished performance of Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto. And it formed the thread which led into night itself in Ravel's *Rhapsodie Espagnole*. Here, the orchestra's delicate, subtly blended woodwind soloists also came into their own, their flights of fancy and figuration wonderfully aerial and, for *Daphnis et Chloé*'s dawn, aptly avian as well.

HILARY FINCH

CONCERT: A brilliant Japanese band makes its British debut

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response to war in general, and to one poet's experience in particular. Soh Sakon watched his mother die in an air raid in May 1945. He wrote of the "illusory reality" of his "irradiated sepulchre", an awkward translation of the French that inspired Miyoshi to a graphic orchestral fireball.

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Flowers



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 24 1995

LOTTERY

Money goes to a music project for unemployed youths in today's round of Arts Council grants



THEATRE 1

Was Furtwängler right to entertain Hitler? Ronald Harwood's fine new play poses the question



THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 2

Jacques Brel lives again, though fitfully, in a new stage tribute at the King's Head, Islington



TOMORROW

Write a great film script, enter *The Times's* competition, and win a trip to Hollywood



Winning numbers all round

Lord Gowrie, Arts Council chairman, explains the reasoning behind the lottery awards announced this morning

Today the Arts Council of England makes its second announcement of grants from the National Lottery funds. We have awarded £15 million to 49 different projects, large and small, all over the country. With sales exceeding expectations the lottery is likely to raise about £250 million for the arts in its first year. Of this sum, we have granted only £17 million so far. Prudence is a dull virtue, especially in an invigorating arena like the arts, until you think of the alternative. We are funding projects of proven need and high quality regardless of size, with ability to sustain themselves in the longer term. They should also have that magic ingredient known as inspiration. We do not "lose" the money we do not spend. We are determined not to untether herds of white elephants whose support will prove impossible for those who come after us.

No group of people is more aware than the Arts Council of the tension that exists between the need for capital investment and the crisis of current funding. The organisations we fund have good reason to be worried. Crisis management is something organisations rise to. As a daily diet, it saps vitality and creativity. Production costs are high and the recession, which still goes on where discretionary spending is concerned, has hit audiences,

sponsorship and morale. Considering the squeeze on its resources, local government has behaved valiantly. Yet another reorganisation, however, does not bode well for this essential source of money. England in particular suffered an inequitable and unnecessary cut (the sums involved are too small to have the slightest macro-economic significance).

The Secretary of State fought hard in the last spending round, and we are genuinely grateful for the partial restitution he achieved. But we still need £7 or £8 million on our baseline to go back, with little possibility of development, to where we were two years ago.

No wonder then, given the disparity between a desperate need for £8 million annually, and the monthly appearance in our coffers of £20 million, that the dedicated and underpaid men and women who run arts organisations are wondering whether the lottery really can increase audiences, help artists and promote artistic work of quality. I say to them, "Hang on in there". It is precisely because of each successive squeeze by central and local government that so many arts buildings are unheating, in disrepair, at risk from health and safety legislation (the much envied English National Opera and Royal Opera houses, to take two huge organisations in the capital alone,



Among the lottery beneficiaries announced today will be Raw Music, a music and video project for young unemployed people in the King's Cross area of London

are on the verge of trading illegally) and threatened with closure. An age of ever more sophisticated electronic packages of home entertainment demands exciting and affordable venues, which are accessible to all if the living arts are to go on making their huge contribution to the revenues and prestige of this country.

Last month, for example, we rescued a brilliant children's theatre, the Unicorn Theatre in London, from closure. The creation

of new audiences is vital. Today we have given grants to another children's theatre, the Quicksilver, to the Nettlefold Festival Trust which will involve over 1,000 children in music on Clapham Common; to Raw Music, a music and video project for young unemployed people; and to the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby for the creation of a signed video library. A large award goes to Scarborough Theatre Trust, home of the dramatic and organisational genius of Alan

Ayckbourn. Improvements to the South Westmead Stage and Screen Society and the Cambridge Arts Theatre will reduce running costs and increase earned income. Many of these awards will have a direct impact on the work available to artists. The lottery is a commissioning agent, a patron in the old sense, and we intend to see this aspect of our work grow. As a result of the lottery, Norwich Playhouse has commissioned a new play and the Hayling Island Amateur Dra-

matic Society a sculpture for their new theatre. The Government has already shown some flexibility in the capital versus current funding debate. We must press for more. But we must remember that the distinction between a commissioning agent, a patron in the old sense, and we intend to see this aspect of our work grow. As a result of the lottery, Norwich Playhouse has commissioned a new play and the Hayling Island Amateur Dra-

Council, I have tried to shift our sensibility away from cultural *gauleiter*, or nanny, and towards that of a responsive organisation which recognises that the arts themselves are in the driving seat and need fuel not directions. Asking for patience is still rather a nanny-like thing to do. But the monies are coming on stream very fast. I have no doubt that the cultural landscape, and economy, of this country will be transformed. We are on our way.

Historic stage rescue

A £6.6 million lottery grant will save Cambridge's Arts Theatre, reports Daniel Rosenthal

With the announcement this morning of a £6.6 million National Lottery grant to Cambridge's Arts Theatre Trust — the largest single award in the country — the future has been secured of a celebrated venue that has been closed since April 1993 and is currently a mass of girders, concrete and hard hats. The money has ended two years of anxiety for the theatre's trustees and local players, who have been campaigning to raise £3 million towards an £8 million scheme that will transform the rundown building of fond memory into one of Britain's best-appointed regional theatres.

Demolition work is complete. Contractors will now begin the reconstruction, and the curtain should rise again for the 1996-97 season. Until today, however, the question on the lips of Arts Theatre regulars deprived of a year-round programme which took in Shakespeare, Molière and Wedekind, was not "when will it reopen?" but "will it ever reopen?" By 1990 it became clear that, having always relied on the Endowment Fund established by its founder John Maynard Keynes, rather than public subsidy, the 59-year-old theatre was heading for insolvency. It was a case of redevelopment or die.

The trustees had hoped to reopen last autumn. But despite support from patrons Sir John Gielgud and Stephen Hawking, they could not overcome a recession-induced squeeze on donations. Autumn 1994 passed with the appeal target a long way off and little prospect of raising the remaining millions from anywhere except the lottery.

The 1993 closure made 60 theatre staff redundant. Touring companies had to strike Cambridge from their itineraries and, after performing at the Arts for generations, Footlights and the Marlowe Society, Cambridge University's most famous drama groups, have been forced to mount their annual productions in reduced circumstances at the



Currently a mass of girders, the Arts Theatre has been nursery to some of the country's finest theatrical talents

Amateur Dramatic Club or Cambridge Festival theatres. Student actors and directors have thus lost the chance to develop their skills on a stage which has served as a launching pad for dozens of famous thespian knights and dames.

Because an organisation's importance within its community is one of the lottery's bidding criteria, the theatre's position at the heart of Cambridge culture was crucial. Before closure, its box office returns were 13 per cent above the national average for mid-scale theatres and that popularity was reflected in the determination of local residents to ensure the return of mainstream drama.

Lindsey Hall, the theatre's campaign co-ordinator, hails the grant as a triumph for the organisers of coffee mornings, raffles and recitals which helped the appeal reach £2.4 million. "They worked astonishingly hard," she says. "Our bid was dependent on raising £3 million in partnership funding, so we wouldn't have got the lottery money without their support. Some worried their donations were going down a black hole. Now there is tremendous relief."

The auditorium, described by Sir Ian McKellen as "one of the most wonderfully intimate

in the world", will be virtually unchanged. But the wings are to be 50 per cent wider, the stage 35 per cent deeper and there will be 30 new dressing rooms; alterations which mean the Arts will no longer have to turn away opera and ballet tours.

The audience will enjoy air-conditioning, better seating, three bars and two restaurants. Extra wheelchair spaces, a "talking" lift and Braille signs are among improvements which were recommended by disabled groups and which will make a huge difference to those who, in Hawking's words, "experienced many inconveniences on the old site". Kieran Cooper, the Arts' marketing manager, does not need reminding that another £600,000 is needed for the partnership funding agreement, and that a complex building contract must be completed within about 18 months. There is also a sizeable overdraft to be paid off. But Cooper is looking forward to opening night in what he believes will be a people's theatre. "The grant has come from lottery ticket-buyers," he says. "We want everybody to feel they helped to reopen the Arts. A little bit of the theatre will be theirs."

THEATRE: Key figures in 20th-century music resurrected on stage in Chichester and Islington

In tune with Hitler?

WHEN Hitler came to power, Otto Klemperer and Bruno Walter were among the musicians who left Germany: Wilhelm Furtwängler stayed. One of the greatest conductors of his day, some say the greatest, he continued to work in Nazi Germany and on tours abroad, where it was possible to see him as a cultural emissary of Nazism, whether or not he wished so to be seen. When the war ended the question of what precisely his wishes had been brought him before the denazification courts. Though never a member of the Party, was he a secret sympathiser?

The question being asked in Ronald Harwood's engrossing play is twofold. First, if Furtwängler is innocent, why did he stay? And since he stayed, is he not guilty? Second, what should be the response of an eminent man, in this case an artist of world stature, when his country is taken over by tyrants?

The action takes place in the Berlin office of the American major (Michael Pennington) investigating the conductor's case and determined to find him guilty. Some unconvincing rubble forms the background to Eileen Doss's set, and two desks and a number of chairs occupy the main area. The major sits at one desk; at the other sits his German secretary and Ameri-

can assistant. Furtwängler for the most part sits in the middle.

His portrayal by Daniel Massey is a performance of magisterial conviction. He doesn't exactly look like the man, though white hair flows out from what I take to be a false bald pate, domed and pink and shining. But the face is scored with the lines of severe intelligence; the tight-lipped mouth and fierce stare unquestionably belong to a man who intently thinks and intensely feels.

Harwood has given him speeches in which to declare his conviction of the power and importance of music, and Massey delivers these in a lucid, precise and passionate voice. The voice itself is musical, charged with energy, capable of flamboyance, the instrument of dignity and daring.

None of this cuts any ice with Pennington's Major Arnold, chosen for the job because of his musical ignorance and mockingly referring to Furtwängler as a band-leader. Harwood is not on Arnold's side.

The widow of a Jewish pianist (Suzanne Bertish) warns Arnold that he risks

Taking Sides Minerva, Chichester

becoming as intolerant as the enemy, and Harwood evidently wishes us to watch out for this. Arnold has seen Belsen, but even this does not provide a persuasive motive for his antagonism. Because of this

lack of a credible power base for Arnold, the quality of argument diminishes in the second half. In other respects Harwood has written what used to be called a well-made play, where every character introduces an aspect of the central issue.

The characters in a well-made play can be too carefully contrived, and so they are

here. Yet nothing can take away from the fascination of Harwood's hero and the blazing quality of Massey's performance.

Harold Pinter's direction helps to create the sense of danger and the importance of asking what people can best do in such predicaments. But if the play transfers to London I hope it will be to a prosaically stage so that important moments will not be invisible to half the audience.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Jacques flash

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris King's Head, NI

JACQUES BREL alive? Well, not exactly. He is, at best, semi-animating in Islington. Of course, some songs by this Belgian-born *chansonnier* have been perpetuated worldwide. Equally, the original stage show, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, kept the flame burning for the singer-songwriter, running off-Broadway when he abandoned Paris for his reclusive last years in Polynesia.

Nevertheless, the present staging is "live" but not vital. The foursome — two men, two women — who present Brel's songs cabaret-style (translations by Blau and Shumay), look a mile seized-up in their black tie and sheath ball-gowns.

Our singers execute Jazz Age moves but evade minimal razzmatazz. The dining-room intimacy of the King's Head spells trouble for stage nerves. The audience can see the faintest discomfort, close-up.

Struan Leslie is more to blame: the choreography only comes into its own 23 songs

(and counting) into the show. In Next, Brel's macabre march, the company shuffle staggeringly forward in a chain, heads slumped. Each falls to the back to begin again, like an endless column of soldiers reduced to the walking dead.

The singers, all vocally delectable, do warm to their task. Stuart Fendred is the most winningly activated, spinning like a tumbler or ridiculously swaggering in Jackie. However, too often the dramatics are hammy. The group harmonise with dizzying acceleration in the fairground rondo, *Carrousel*, but must they flail their arms like ferris wheels?

KATE BASSETT

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CALLING ALL TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

If you are looking for challenge,
involvement and have excellent
secretarial skills, why narrow your
job search to just permanent
opportunities? Our temps enjoy the
challenge to work 52 weeks per year
at competitive rates, paid holidays
and assignments in a variety of
companies which offer other temp
permanent positions. If you have a
minimum of a year's experience,
are aged 20-30, have shorthand (an
advantage) and 50wpm typing -
Call us now!

Please call us now on
0171-734 8484

College Leavers/2nd Jobbers?

Permanent & temporary opportunities in Covent Garden.

The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) is the principal representative organisation for UK
food and drink manufacturers. Based in modern centrally located offices the environment is
easy, stimulating and friendly. We are looking for enthusiastic self-starters with a good
educational background and ideally, six months experience (skills 60wpm typing and
proficiency in WPS/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100/101/102/103/104/105/106/107/108/109/110/111/112/113/114/115/116/117/118/119/120/121/122/123/124/125/126/127/128/129/130/131/132/133/134/135/136/137/138/139/140/141/142/143/144/145/146/147/148/149/150/151/152/153/154/155/156/157/158/159/160/161/162/163/164/165/166/167/168/169/170/171/172/173/174/175/176/177/178/179/180/181/182/183/184/185/186/187/188/189/190/191/192/193/194/195/196/197/198/199/200/201/202/203/204/205/206/207/208/209/210/211/212/213/214/215/216/217/218/219/220/221/222/223/224/225/226/227/228/229/230/231/232/233/234/235/236/237/238/239/240/241/242/243/244/245/246/247/248/249/250/251/252/253/254/255/256/257/258/259/260/261/262/263/264/265/266/267/268/269/270/271/272/273/274/275/276/277/278/279/280/281/282/283/284/285/286/287/288/289/290/291/292/293/294/295/296/297/298/299/300/301/302/303/304/305/306/307/308/309/310/311/312/313/314/315/316/317/318/319/320/321/322/323/324/325/326/327/328/329/330/331/332/333/334/335/336/337/338/339/340/341/342/343/344/345/346/347/348/349/350/351/352/353/354/355/356/357/358/359/360/361/362/363/364/365/366/367/368/369/370/371/372/373/374/375/376/377/378/379/380/381/382/383/384/385/386/387/388/389/390/391/392/393/394/395/396/397/398/399/400/401/402/403/404/405/406/407/408/409/410/411/412/413/414/415/416/417/418/419/420/421/422/423/424/425/426/427/428/429/430/431/432/433/434/435/436/437/438/439/440/441/442/443/444/445/446/447/448/449/450/451/452/453/454/455/456/457/458/459/460/461/462/463/464/465/466/467/468/469/470/471/472/473/474/475/476/477/478/479/480/481/482/483/484/485/486/487/488/489/490/491/492/493/494/495/496/497/498/499/500/501/502/503/504/505/506/507/508/509/510/511/512/513/514/515/516/517/518/519/520/521/522/523/524/525/526/527/528/529/530/531/532/533/534/535/536/537/538/539/540/541/542/543/544/545/546/547/548/549/550/551/552/553/554/555/556/557/558/559/560/561/562/563/564/565/566/567/568/569/570/571/572/573/574/575/576/577/578/579/580/581/582/583/584/585/586/587/588/589/590/591/592/593/594/595/596/597/598/599/600/601/602/603/604/605/606/607/608/609/610/611/612/613/614/615/616/617/618/619/620/621/622/623/624/625/626/627/628/629/630/631/632/633/634/635/636/637/638/639/640/641/642/643/644/645/646/647/648/649/650/651/652/653/654/655/656/657/658/659/660/661/662/663/664/665/666/667/668/669/670/671/672/673/674/675/676/677/678/679/680/681/682/683/684/685/686/687/688/689/690/691/692/693/694/695/696/697/698/699/700/701/702/703/704/705/706/707/708/709/710/711/712/713/714/715/716/717/718/719/720/721/722/723/724/725/726/727/728/729/730/731/732/733/734/735/736/737/738/739/740/741/742/743/744/745/746/747/748/749/750/751/752/753/754/755/756/757/758/759/760/761/762/763/764/765/766/767/768/769/770/771/772/773/774/775/776/777/778/779/780/781/782/783/784/785/786/787/788/789/790/791/792/793/794/795/796/797/798/799/800/801/802/803/804/805/806/807/808/809/810/811/812/813/814/815/816/817/818/819/820/821/822/823/824/825/826/827/828/829/830/831/832/833/834/835/836/837/838/839/840/841/842/843/844/845/846/847/848/849/850/851/852/853/854/855/856/857/858/859/860/861/862/863/864/865/866/867/868/869/870/871/872/873/874/875/876/877/878/879/880/881/882/883/884/885/886/887/888/889/890/891/892/893/894/895/896/897/898/899/900/901/902/903/904/905/906/907/908/909/910/911/912/913/914/915/916/917/918/919/920/921/922/923/924/925/926/927/928/929/930/931/932/933/934/935/936/937/938/939/940/941/942/943/944/945/946/947/948/949/950/951/952/953/954/955/956/957/958/959/960/961/962/963/964/965/966/967/968/969/970/971/972/973/974/975/976/977/978/979/980/981/982/983/984/985/986/987/988/989/990/991/992/993/994/995/996/997/998/999/1000/1001/1002/1003/1004/1005/1006/1007/1008/1009/1010/1011/1012/1013/1014/1015/1016/1017/1018/1019/1020/1021/1022/1023/1024/1025/1026/1027/1028/1029/1030/1031/1032/1033/1034/1035/1036/1037/1038/1039/1040/1041/1042/1043/1044/1045/1046/1047/1048/1049/1050/1051/1052/1053/1054/1055/1056/1057/1058/1059/1060/1061/1062/1063/1064/1065/1066/1067/1068/1069/1070/1071/1072/1073/1074/1075/1076/1077/1078/1079/1080/1081/1082/1083/1084/1085/1086/1087/1088/1089/1090/1091/1092/1093/1094/1095/1096/1097/1098/1099/1100/1101/1102/1103/1104/1105/1106/1107/1108/1109/1110/1111/1112/1113/1114/1115/1116/1117/1118/1119/1120/1121/1122/1123/1124/1125/1126/1127/1128/1129/1130/1131/1132/1133/1134/1135/1136/1137/1138/1139/1140/1141/1142/1143/1144/1145/1146/1147/1148/1149/1150/1151/1152/1153/1154/1155/1156/1157/1158/1159/1160/1161/1162/1163/1164/1165/1166/1167/1168/1169/1170/1171/1172/1173/1174/1175/1176/1177/1178/1179/1180/1181/1182/1183/1184/1185/1186/1187/1188/1189/1190/1191/1192/1193/1194/1195/1196/1197/1198/1199/1200/1201/1202/1203/1204/1205/1206/1207/1208/1209/1210/1211/1212/1213/1214/1215/1216/1217/1218/1219/1220/122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TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 9994

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 481 9313

**MARKETING
MAGIC!**
£17,500 pa
Young dynamic director of marketing at a leading PA/Secretarial firm. Only with the right person, you can make a difference. We are looking for a person who can take on the challenge of a new role. Call us now on 0171 589 8897.

**YOUNG
SECRETARY**
£16,500
Wonderful opportunity for a young, enthusiastic secretary (possibly a jobber) in this extremely successful Executive Selection and Search consultancy in Mayfair. Excellent secretarial skills, well spoken and confident, outgoing personality you will be encouraged to use your initiative and get involved. Very friendly office. Call Hazel Brandy SEGAL RECRUITMENT 0171-403 1528

City PA
Up to £28,000 package
Top Executive of a well established City firm requires a first class PA to provide total support, including extensive liaison with senior clients. In addition you will handle your own correspondence, organise meetings, travel arrangements and act as an ambassador within the firm. Experience at a similar level within banking or stockbroking, 100wpm shorthand and fast typing are essential. Age 25-35. Please telephone Sharon Leask on 0171-390 7000

Crone Corkill

BANKING SEC
£18,000 + PD O/TIME
Ideal opportunity within this top Merchant Bank established in new capital. Must be team player 55 wpm, 22-30 yrs. Val Wade Rec Cons 0171 437 3793

SALES PROMOTION PA
£15,000 + Bens
Superb & very varied role within the lively social W1 Co. - media background. Must enjoy organising, planning, writing, editing, windows, natty & fun. 25-30 yrs. Val Wade Rec Cons 0171 437 3793

TONIGHT!
Crone Corkill Temporary Team
invite you to
an Informal Open Evening
WEDNESDAY 24th MAY
If you are available to temp, have good WP skills and fast, accurate typing, we would like to meet you to discuss your plans and discover how we could help you fulfil them.
We would welcome the opportunity to tell you about the team including the reasons why they earn the highest hourly rates, why they are so highly regarded in Central London and how you could join this very special team.
Several members of our temp team will be with us to give you first hand information about the service they receive from us, the type of companies they work with, their assignments and the reasons why they have chosen to temp with Crone Corkill.
So if you're curious to discover more, please join us for a glass of wine. In a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Please bring this invitation along and you will be entered into our Prize Draw. (The first prize is a day at the Sanctuary!)

RSVP:
Clare Godfrey,
Natalie Dowling,
Anna Ward, Lisa Martin,
Julia Stones

6:30pm
Victory House
99/101 Regent Street
London W1R 7HB
Tel: 0171 434 4512

Crone Corkill

PA to M.D.

Immediate Start Required
to £25,000 & Paid
Overtime
Would you like to support an energetic, fun-loving American who will seek your opinions and value your ideas? Providing full PA back-up to the Managing Director of this City based Investment Management Company, your duties will be varied, including travel, personal work and arranging an office move. Coming from a financial background you will have previous experience of working at senior level. Skills: 90wpm typing, windows knowledge essential. Age 27-38. This is a temp to perm position. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171-390 7000

Crone Corkill

SECRETARY/PA
A medium-sized West End consultancy practice offers a challenging position for someone with solid experience in an accountancy practice & sound knowledge of Wd for Windows, coupled with the ability to organise a partner's workload. Very suitable and non-stressful working environment.
CV's only to: Madeline Fenton
Palladium House, 1-4 Argyll Street, London W1V 2LD
Ref: MK/LA

**SALES
ASSISTANT**
£16-£18K+
Support opportunity with leading property firm. Sales assistant - self-starter who combines speed, accuracy and a friendly personality. Must be able to work in the City. See skills: WP 6.0 & Lotus 1.23. To start asap. Call 0171 377 6777
Middleton Jeffers

**PERFECT
PROPERTY PA**
£18,000 + Bens
Out-going, lively PA/Sec for fun loving young couple in well established City. Organising of house, garden, car, pet, Wd, excel, parties & lunches etc. + more. Age 25-45 yrs. West Kensington. Tel: 0171-222 5861

Prestigious office in Belgrave has two vacancies, one secretary (£12,000 net) and one driver (£11,400 net). Please send CV and passport size photograph to: P.O. Box 776 London SW1X 8XT

Chairman's PA
£25,000 + Bens
Client driven international search and selection organisation requires a committed, resourceful and independent PA to work for their active Chairman. From private work to high profile functions you will be totally responsible for the day to day running of his diary. The hours will be long but your ability to organise and prioritise will ensure a successful and exciting career in a fun atmosphere. Age 25-35, Microsoft Word for windows and shorthand. For further information, please call Lizzy Hallett on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill

Charismatic Boss
to £22,000
Our client, a well established and successful American oil company needs someone to work for their charming President, a really nice boss who enjoys his work and wants his PA to do the same. He needs a superb right hand person, who can deal with all his technical correspondence, liaise with his clients around the world and organise his business and social functions. You must be committed, resourceful and naturally proactive, taking the initiative as a matter of course. If you are a team player, enjoy working in a small office environment and have excellent secretarial skills, aged 25-35 please call Sonia Yusuf on 0171 434 4512

Crone Corkill

Fresh Start
£25,000 Plus Bens
A genuine opportunity exists for an entrepreneurial PA/Office Manager to set up the London base of a major international energy company. Having been involved in significant investment opportunities in the UK they now require a small team from which to expand their area of their business. Setting up an office from scratch requires initiative, excellent administration skills, numeracy, the ability to plan ahead and an independent nature as there will be times when you will work alone. The projects are to create a fully autonomous administrative role and to be in at the beginning of an exciting period of growth. You will ideally have had previous start up experience, be aged 25-45 with good typing, shorthand and WP skills. Please call Karen Lewis on 0171 390 7000 for further details

Crone Corkill

Recruitment
to £20,000
An extremely successful West End firm needs an excellent administrator to help run their small, but very busy office. This is a challenging and rewarding position requiring a high degree of accuracy and commitment. You must be team spirited with a methodical approach and a flexible attitude to provide support in a variety of areas. Experience in a recruitment consultancy would be an added bonus. If you have a good education, solid CV, sound secretarial skills (60wpm), are aged 22-30, please call Chioma Oji on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill

Double Trouble!
£18,000
mort sub & gym & bonus
A prestigious City bank is looking for two outstanding secretaries to support the Head of Ops, his Office Manager and the team. These positions will suit people with confident personalities who are calm under pressure and who possess superb organisational skills. Your role will include diary management, travel arrangements, constant client liaison, telephone work and a variety of admin duties. Work is delegated by the Office Manager and the department is so busy that coverage is needed from 7.30am to 7.00pm (on a rota basis). With 2-3 years financial experience, good typing and Windows WP can you handle it? Call Annie Hossain on 0171-390 7000 for more details

Crone Corkill

ROC RECRUITMENT - A SUCCESS STORY FOR THE 1990's
On 24th April ROC Recruitment, the fastest growing and most successful private secretarial consultancy to emerge in the last four years moved into their new City Offices at 65 London Wall which is just 5 minutes walk from Bank, Moorgate and Liverpool Street stations. The opening of a second branch represents a significant new chapter in the success story of ROC Recruitment, a company which started in the recession and has experienced significant growth ever since.
The enormous emphasis ROC places on maintaining the highest levels of client service coupled with successfully meeting the needs of candidates has provided the foundations for success and allowed ROC the privilege of counting a large number of City-based companies amongst an extensive and growing list of satisfied clients. Likewise, the volume of candidates seeking city positions is ever increasing.
Moving geographically to these clients and candidates is important. The new office staffed by a number of experienced consultants and their support staff is equipped with the most up to date QWERTY computerised testing and training systems which offers City based companies, job seekers and temps the benefits of having a local office providing the unique level of service and expertise associated with ROC Recruitment. Additionally, the City has a broad base of companies and industries facilitating future growth and diversification opportunities.
ROC House in South Molton Street remains the company headquarters and will continue to service companies and job seekers in the West End.

Executive Secretary
£20,000 (Tax Free) Package + Free Accommodation
Bahrain
Our client, Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA) is one of the largest and most modern aluminium smelters in the world, employing state-of-the-art technology in its operations. A leading and highly respected employer, ALBA now wishes to recruit an experienced secretary for its headquarters in Bahrain.
You will provide a full range of secretarial and PA services to the company's senior executives. This is an important role offering a genuine opportunity to contribute to the success of the company.
In addition to a good standard of education, you will need proven secretarial experience gained at a senior level within a large company. Excellent typing skills should be complemented by first-class organisational ability, and very good written and spoken English.
You must also be a first-class communicator, able to deal with people at all levels; Speedwriting or shorthand would be advantageous. The attractive tax-free salary is supported by a comprehensive range of benefits including free furnished flat, 28 working days leave, 12 days' public holidays, annual air ticket, free medical care and full recruitment/reparation expenses. The position is offered on a two year renewable contract.
Bahrain is a progressive and attractive country with extensive sports and social facilities which offers a rewarding life-style for expatriates.
Please write, in confidence, with full career and salary details, to Cathie Angus, MSL Advertising Services Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL. Please quote reference 54420.

ROC
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SECOND JOBBERS
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A superb opportunity for a highly motivated and professional PR Secretary to work within a leading international company. Excellent benefits, 60 wpm and 30 wpm essential.
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- Medium sized company requires a marketing assistant to manage and co-ordinate their busy marketing department. You will be responsible for promotion, organising seminars and marketing literature. If you have at least three years secretarial experience and are looking for a proactive assistant's role, please call LISA KELLY.
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR
£18,500 + Benefits
- International company requires a personnel administrator to take responsibility for their support staff recruitment and manpower planning. This is a 'hands on' role and there will be scope to develop further. If you have at least two years administrative experience and a proven interest in personnel, please call SOPHIE WADE.
PA TO CEO/PRESIDENT
£22,000
- Dynamic, well respected CEO of 'blue chip' music company requires a senior level PA. You will be working for a flamboyant individual who will delegate and allow you to act on your own initiative. You should be able to handle presented difficulties in a calm, mature manner and have impeccable secretarial skills including fast shorthand. Music background useful. Please call LISA KELLY.
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The City has been making the news lately and recent events mean plenty of opportunities for temporary secretaries to work in some of the best paid and most exciting assignments in London. If you have ever tempted here, now is the time to try it. Our high profile, high flying clients need flexible secretaries with excellent skills who can hit the deck running - and keep going! There has never been a more interesting time to temp in the City and as part of our team you can be assured a great reception; and maybe a headline or two! Please call our City Temp Desk now on 0171-390 7000

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career moves
DYNAMIC RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
TO WORK WITH THE MEDIA/
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We are well established Consultants specialising in the recruitment and training of media professionals. We are currently looking to add to our numbers by recruiting an enthusiastic, self-motivated, experienced recruitment consultant who feels that their personality would be better suited to working with more creative clients. A knowledge of the field is not essential, but a desire to learn and build up your own client base is a must. The position is full time, 9-5pm, Monday to Friday. We offer a competitive salary, a superb training package and a superb remuneration package for the right consultant.
To respond please call Caroline Poles or Sheryl Knapton.
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Recruitment Consultants
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Just imagine, it's lunchtime. Perhaps you're walking down the Champs Elysees or people watching outside a little cafe drinking decent coffee and just think, you can almost taste the French cuisine. This will be a reality for a young secretary with fluent French and fast accurate typing (min 65 wpm) working for a household name known across the world. You'll be providing a full secretarial and administrative support and liaising with American contacts. You will have to have excellent English because your French boss will be relying on you. If you think now is the time to put your French to use in its own environment, and you're in early 20's please call.
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WHAT A START...
£14-15,000 + STL + MED + FREE LUNCH + MORT SUB or FREE SEASON TICKET
... your secretarial career could have it all if you join this young and successful City team. You'll have to be confident and switched on to make a go of this (no scenario 10 wpm typing please) but the incentives are fantastic, great people, enviable offices, and an unrivalled first time salary package makes this a special opportunity. If you consider yourself to be an all rounder, smart and other a capable college leaver or even second jobber (10+) please call.
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... this very beautiful SW1 house is an unusual opportunity for an individual to prove themselves. The house acts as the London flagship for mainly overseas clients; so you must be a confident self-starter, because you are the company in London alongside their talented MD. You must see yourself as a talented 'Jack of all Trades'. You'll need fast typing (55wpm) for a minimum secretarial load, but you will also be responsible for running the house, and client entertainment which you will actually be involved in. If you think you're up to it, you will be trained in all aspects of the business so you can work on your own projects. If you're smart, down to earth and bright (25+) we think you'll like this unique position.
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...mansions, flats, penthouses are all in a days work at one of these fabulous property companies in London. Like property hunting, why don't you choose the locations you want to work...Chelsea, Knightsbridge, Piccadilly or the West-End, take your pick. You'll need good secretarial skills (50wpm) and fantastic organisational ability, for various strategic departments in this company. For one position you'll need to be a car driver, so you will be involved in negotiating. Have you got windows exp and a solid secretarial background, aged 20-40? Then call for an immediate interview.
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Telephone 0171 734 7341

Sue Cooke
Recruitment
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Outstanding opportunity as PA to innovative M.D. of est. Finance Co. Fast moving environment requiring business acumen & excel. Interpersonal skills. 50+ wpm typing, advanced PC skills. Based in heart of Richmond. Age 25-35 salary £17-£19k plus unrivalled benefits!
Please call Sue Cooke Recruitment 0171 355 5835

ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY
Salary: £12,000 - £14,000
You will oversee all administrative duties for negotiating agent in our small, but busy Residential Leasing Office based in Regent Park. A good telephone manner, 45+ wpm typing, knowledge of a windows WP package are essential. If this busy and challenging environment interests you please telephone or fax your CV to: Jenny Harris at PGL Ltd on:
Tel 0171 722 0293
Fax 0171 249 1938
No Agencies

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P.O. Box HM 1721, Hamilton HM 1721,
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Or fax to: (809) 295-1495.

SECRETARY
Lively Accounts Office of our sporting organisation in Knightsbridge requires an experienced and reliable assistant. Excellent WP skills (prof. Microsoft) are needed along with some shorthand, a good command of English and a head for figures. This is a team role, which needs a flexible and enthusiastic approach to a varied and interesting workload. Working conditions are excellent and the salary negotiable. If this sounds right for you, please send a letter with CV to: Penny Whitaker, 6 Princes Gate, London SW7 1QJ. No Agencies.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
£20,000
PR Consultant running small but lively business from home in W14 seeks mature PA to run office. Must have ability to use own initiative, work under pressure and have a confident telephone manner for dealing with clients. You will be drafting letters and sending out press releases so a good command of language and presentation skills are a necessity. Computer literacy, accurate typing and basic shorthand are essential, some knowledge of simple accounting would be useful. Previous PR experience an advantage.
Please send CV to Box No 6648

Excel
MARKETING SEC
£16,500 + BONUS
+ PAID OVERTIME
We are recruiting a well organised, flexible and enthusiastic PA/Secretary for an executive who specialises in the media and entertainment world. Responsibilities would include making international travel, conference and seminar arrangements, extensive client contact and liaison. Age 25+. A generous package is included for an experienced secretary seeking more than just a 9-5 position. Please call now.
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This is a small selection of the very many opportunities presently on offer.
Our temporary team (London's longest established!) is recruiting too.
If you have good secretarial skills, call us on 0171 483 5767 or fax us on 0171 483 1854.
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Recruitment Consultants

AT LAST!
ATTENTION ALL TOP PA/SECRETARIES

...Glamorous Jobs with Involvement, Excitement, Responsibility...
FLAMBOYANT INTERIOR DESIGNER - Wants TOP PA/Secretary with excellent presentation and outgoing/friendly personality, capable of dealing with the rich and famous. Must be energetic, thrive on administration, be computer literate. Languages useful.
LONG WEEKENDS APPEAL? Two demanding, dynamic but fun Directors of highly successful Investment Company, wants PA/Secretary with high standards, charm and excellent attention to detail to help them run their Company. If you have initiative, can prioritise and cope in a crisis, weekends start at Friday lunchtime!
Skills: SH useful/60 typing. Salaries: £20,000 + benefits. Please telephone: 0171 235 8427.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

SECRETARIES

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

We are an international management consultancy seeking an experienced PA/Office Manager to work for the MD in an interesting and challenging role. The Candidate must have excellent organisational skills, fast accurate typing, working knowledge of Italian and/or French, the ability to organise oneself and the administrative procedures in the office, and a confident approach when dealing with people at senior levels. This position would be demanding but challenging to the successful Candidate.
Salary up to £23,000 p.a. for the right person. Please send CV to Mrs Sarah Beaumont, MFP Consulting Ltd, James House, 1 Balmores Street, St James's SW1Y 6HD or fax 0171 925 2636

Alliance Gas Ltd

Leading independent gas marketing company require permanent secretary for offices in Blackfriars.
Minimum 3 years general secretarial experience; knowledge of oil/gas sector advantageous but not essential.
Salary c£17,500 (depending on experience) plus excellent benefits.
To apply please send CV and covering letter to Steven Paterson, Human Resources Manager, Alliance Gas Ltd, London EC4V 4BY.
Closing date 31st May.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Bright secretary required for busy office. You will work for one of the partners and two negotiators. Good working knowledge of Word Perfect and Excel 5.1 needed. The position offers the opportunity to learn new skills as one of the senior secretaries in this busy and expanding office.
Good interpersonal skills a must.
Salary £16,750 - £19,000 depending on experience. Call Elizabeth De la Rue on 0171 405 4545
Ring Farebrother (ref PW) 0171 405 4545
NO AGENCIES

£28,000 PA

Our client, a leading professional who is highly respected in his field, requires the best PA in London. Spending circa 50% of your time on your own, you will be responsible for the complete control of both his business and private lives. This position will require someone who is a pro-active self-starter with first class secretarial skills (100/70). Being in the front-line, an impeccable presentation and manner are essential. Age 30-38.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
0171 629 9323

Dynamic Catering Company - Marketing Secretary/P.A.

South London based private catering company requires efficient 25-35 year old person educated to A level standard, to work for senior event organiser. Shorthand preferable, WP 5.0 essential. c£16,000 p.a.
Handwritten applications with CV to - Mustard Catering, 1-3 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DE or Fax 0171 793 1024 or telephone Fran in the first instance on 0171 582 9159, mornings only.

TIMES GROUP

Summer has arrived & brought with it some of the best jobs this year. Below is just a small selection of the exciting opportunities we currently have available.

Shipping	Sec/Clerk	EC2	£12,000
Headquarters	Team Sec	WC1	£12,000
Banking	Jar Sec	W1	£12,500
Pensions	VDU/OP	W1	£13,000
Marketing	Team Sec	NW1	£13,500
Advertising	Co-Ordinator	WC2	£14,000
Health	Medical Sec	SW6	£14,300
Leisure	Support Sec	W6	£15,000
Management Consultancy	Receptionist	EC1	£15,000
Fashion	S/H Sec	NW1	£16,000
Hotel	PA Sec	W1	£20,000

All positions have excellent company benefits

These positions are working for some of London's premier companies and many are registered with us on an exclusive basis. If you want to progress your career, now is the time to call the Times Team.

Tel: 0171 831 8936
Fax: 0171 430 9111

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To £10.00 ph plus Overtime

For stimulating, rewarding, highly paid assignments... whether you're available for the odd day, long term, temp to perm or a full-time contract we currently have so many opportunities that just the one you've been waiting for! If you are 100% flexible and enthusiastic with good secretarial skills, we can offer you continuous work, top rates and a friendly, efficient service.

Call Rebecca Ashby at Cross Selection on: 0171 377 5600 or Fax: 0171 377 5599

CROSS SELECTION

SECRETARY £15-16,000 - SW1

Looking for a step up the ladder? If you've 2 yrs. secretarial experience and are looking to move upwards in a major company, you'll be interested in this role!

Supporting both the legal and exploration departments, you'll ideally know W&W and have the need to organise progress.
Contact Deborah Pearson or Marian Baker at Target Appointments on 0171 242 1183. Alternatively fax your c.v. on 0171 405 5542

Target

APPOINTMENTS

PA/SECRETARY

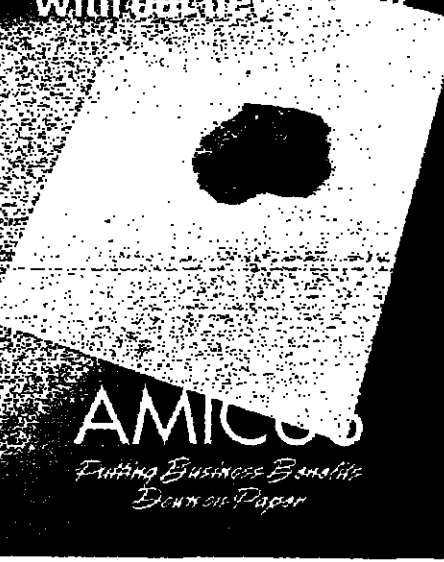
UP TO £17,000
HENDON, NW4
FED UP WITH COMMUTING?

We are a small, but highly successful property company seeking the services of a competent PA/Secretary. You must have excellent secretarial & organisational skills, proficient in W&P, spreadsheets and basic accounts together with a desire to feel part of the team. If you have a desire to not just work, but to have initiative. Word-processing skills essential. and your CV to:
W.K. Moss
Palmgrove House
8 Hertford Road
London NW4 2DG

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

The Chairman of a small successful publishing financial business is looking for a versatile PA. Office administration, basic book-keeping, list management, secretarial ability to work alone, and to have initiative. Word-processing skills essential. No agencies.
Contact Anne Eden, Tel: 0171 583 5806 or fax/fax 0171 20 5144. London EC4V 8DE; Fax: 0171 583 5912

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We are a firm of Chartered Surveyors based in Mayfair looking for a vivacious and intelligent person to work with one other on our front-line reception desk.
You will have previous company reception (including a busy switchboard) experience, and have excellent presentation and interpersonal skills. Good organisational skills would be beneficial.
If you are interested in this exciting position, please send your CV in confidence to Fay Johnstone, Personnel Manager, Nelson Bakewell, Westland House, 17c Curzon Street, London W1Y 8LT.
No Agencies.

Nelson Bakewell
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

GROSVENOR RECEPTION

City Receptionist - £14,000 - small successful co looking for a receptionist with typing (40+) wpm. Working alongside another receptionist, you will need to be organised with a good telephone manner. Pref age: 25-35.
PR Receptionist - £13,000 - friendly financial PR co is looking for an experienced receptionist to join their team. Smart presentation and good telephone manner plus usual reception duties.
Part Time Receptionist - £8,000+ professional co based in St. James is looking for 2 part-time receptionists to run their busy reception desk. Some typing useful. Mornings or afternoons 5 days a week. Pref age: 25-45

GROSVENOR BUREAU
TEL: 0171 499 6566

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/ SECRETARY

Managing Director of a busy, private property and building company requires a confident, well organised secretary. Must be able to work as part of the team and under pressure.

Please send CV, stating current salary, to:
Remains Construction Ltd,
Sandford House,
10 Maynard Close,
Kings Road,
London SW6 2DE.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

With knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and good typing speeds. The successful applicant needs an excellent telephone voice. Should be confident, enthusiastic, with common sense and a dog lover. Small Mayfair office, which offers plenty of scope for someone who likes variety, and being part of a small team. £15,000 dependent on experience. Call Elizabeth De la Rue on 0171 405 4545 or Fax 0171 405 4545

SECRETARY/ NEGOTIATOR

HYDE PARK ESTATE AGENTS W&W required £12K neg + 10% commission + perks. Circa £16,500
0171 258 3978

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

7 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4NB
London Centre of American University requires a mature, flexible person for secretarial/ clerical duties 4 days a week. Experience in an educational environment highly desirable. Salary up to £12,500.
Further particulars from Mrs Sandra Berry, application forms with CV and names of 2 referees by Wednesday 31st May.

Where Next?

International Blue-Chip company will provide opportunity to enhance your CV and gain experience with a leading company. £12,000 per annum. Call Sandra on 0171 405 4545 for recruitment services

PROJECT SECRETARY

Salary circa £15,000 per annum plus bonus scheme.

Full time position offered by CWA, a small yet well established and extremely busy city based consultancy practice. This is a vital role and requires a confident, highly motivated and industrious secretary with excellent organisational, letter-writing and communication skills with the ability to produce good work under pressure. Job specification also includes administration duties.

Knowledge of modern office technology essential. Age guide 20-35.

Please reply in writing, preferably by fax to:

Janet Pearce
CWA Consultants Ltd
Worship House
91 Worship St
London
EC2A 2BE

Tel No: 0171 245 6855
Fax No: 0171 235 8192

No agencies please

PA/ADMINISTRATOR EUSTON NW1

Christopher Place, Centre for children under 5 with hearing impairment and speech and language delay, has a vacancy for a secretary with excellent organisational administrative and WP skills to set up office systems and procedures and give complete support to the Director and team of professional staff.

Applicant must be 25+ educated to 'A' level standard, computer literate, with approx. 2 years experience in a commercial or educational environment with basic knowledge of personnel administration and book-keeping. This key position requires sensitive interpersonal skills.

Write enclosing your c.v. to: H33, 97 West Euston Place Mews, London SW1X 8LY.

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£25,000 - Bilingual Spanish

International travel will be an integral part of the job. As a premier class PA you will bring maturity and diplomacy to a key role in the client's office. The busy life of a Chairman and his successful international offices company. Skills: SH, Age 35-45.

£23,000 - Life must be Fun

Terrific opportunity to work with the artistic and charismatic Chair Executive of a fast moving PLC based in Hertfordshire. This is a challenging role for a PA on an agreed salary. Speeds 50/80 Age 34-38

£18,000 - Fluent French

If you thrive on the exciting and highly professional world of international consultancy and can cope with the hectic schedule of a dynamic French Vice President this is an opportunity to demonstrate your excellent initiative and communication skills. Speeds 50/80 Age 34-38

4 Ganton Street, London W1
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

SALES SECRETARY IN PR £14,500

do you enjoy the buzz and pace of a sales environment? We have an excellent opportunity working for a PR company in their sales department. You will be working for the Director and his team. You will be looking after all the admin and will get involved with presentations. This position requires someone who enjoys working under pressure, has good secretarial skills and spreadsheet experience. Please call SOPHIE WADE immediately.

PA IN PR £16-18,000.

Young, dynamic PR company based in W4 are looking for a PA to work for two Directors. You will be running both of their lives including helping with organising conferences both in the UK and Europe. This is a "hands on" role in a small but hectic office environment and requires someone who has good secretarial and organisational skills and enjoys working to tight deadlines. Please call FORTIA LINDSEY.

Part of Graduate Appointments Plc

SECRETARIAL & TEMPORARY appointments

Tel: 0171 379 0333

Fax: 0171 379 0113

7a Langley Street

London WC2H 9JA

Senior Secretary - Corporate Finance

Leading management consultancy requires a mature, experienced secretary for a one to one role in this very busy environment. SH useful, W&W v.6.0, Powerpoint and Excel. Previous senior level experience necessary as is a willingness to learn quickly. Ref V117

Senior Sherbrooke Secretary - Investment Banking

An exciting role exists in this major City Merchant Bank for a senior secretary with excellent shorthand (100 wpm +) and a very calm and assertive nature. Working for a senior director you will co-ordinate all meetings, travel, client events etc. Excellent presentation and a good knowledge of W&W and spreadsheets is necessary. Ref V115

Managing Directors Secretary

to £20,000 + Bens
Major financial information company seeks a 'A' Level or degree educated PA/Sec to support its Managing Director.

Forward secretarial training and at least 4 years solid experience is essential. Good shorthand, excellent WP skills and most importantly a calm, confident nature and impeccable presentation. A marketing or PR background would be advantageous. Ref V118

NPC

NETWORK PERSONNEL CONSULTANCY LTD

6/7 QUEEN STREET, LONDON EC4N 1SP

TELEPHONE 0171 329 0655 FAX 0171 332 6243

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE PA/FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

c.£23,000 SW1

Applications are invited from ambitious and motivated graduates to join dynamic, rapidly expanding international leasing company as PA to Chief Executive. Essential skills and qualities to include ability to manage cash flow and financial transactions from bank transfers to assisting in the development of new structured financial facilities with international banks; book keeping, knowledge of simple computerised accounts systems for audit preparation and administration of PAYE. VAT plus credit analysis. Additional duties comprise organising meetings and coordinating travel arrangements plus providing secretarial support when required. Must be confident, articulate, numerate, impeccably presented, able to take initiative and responsibility. Commitment will be rewarded. PFP and bonus. Age 24-28 maximum.

Please forward Curriculum Vitae and covering letter to: Lucy Williams, Board International (UK) Limited, 4th Floor, 62 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HZ.

Interbrand Senior Executive Assistant/PA Package c. £25k

Interbrand is a Covent Garden-based marketing consultancy offering services in brand and corporate name development, brand strategy, corporate identity and package design and trade mark law. We are currently seeking an experienced Senior Executive Assistant/PA to support our Group Chairman and the Chairman, Europe. The role is a busy and varied one. As well as excellent typing, word processing (Apple Mac) and shorthand skills, the ideal candidate will have experience in office management and secretarial recruitment. Other vital personal qualities are good communication skills, initiative, flexibility and the ability to maintain a sense of humour at all times!

Please send your application, with a handwritten covering letter, to: Sue Ridley, Interbrand U.K. Ltd, 40 Long Acre, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8JT. No agencies please.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

BILINGUAL (French) Secretary required for UK Commercial Unit, of French multinational. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (German) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Italian) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Spanish) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Portuguese) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Dutch) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Danish) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Norwegian) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Swedish) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Finnish) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

BILINGUAL (Icelandic) Sec in West 2 years for PA/Sec at £40,000 p.a. for 2 French Lawyers. Work, travel, good organisational skills. Interesting post for someone with initiative. CV to The Personnel Administrator, 27 Alchemer Lane, UK, Chalfont, Wey, Bucks, HP8 5JN.

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Floor area not in permission

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Slough Borough Council and Another
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment May 19]

A developer who bought land from a local authority with the benefit of a planning permission granted on an application specifying the area, but which was not actually mentioned in the grant of planning permission, was not limited to that area and an increase of floor area by 45 per cent could not be said to be outside the terms of the permission.

The Court of Appeal in dismissing an appeal brought by Slough Borough Council against the decision of Mr Justice Schiemann on March 28, 1994 of an application for judicial review by the local authority of the decision of an inspector that the proposal in terms of floor area did not fall outside the terms of the outline planning permission and that the appeal should be heard on its merits with regard to local planning policies.

Mr Brian Ash, QC and Mr Paul Stinchcombe for the local authority; Mr Rabinder Singh for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the local authority invited the court to resolve an important, but controversial point of planning practice, namely, the extent to which it was permissible to have regard to the application in order to construe the scope of the planning permission which was granted.

The old petrol station site in Herford Street, Slough, was vested in the local authority. It was considered ripe for development but the local authority did not want to carry out any development itself and preferred to sell the land with the benefit of planning permission which was granted for a change of use, redevelopment and the erection of new buildings with a proposed additional floor space being 1,055 square metres.

The site was then sold to Mr Oury. He applied for planning permission making reference to the outline permission but stating that the proposed additional floor space to be created was 1,530 square metres. The local authority was not prepared to approve a development which increased the floor area by 45 per cent and Mr Oury appealed.

The secretary of state appointed an inspector who found, as a

preliminary issue, that the application was intended to be for approval of details, rather than a fresh application for full planning permission, and there was no challenge to that part of the decision.

It was therefore necessary for him to decide whether the proposal was outside the terms of the original planning permission because of the increased floor area. That did not call for any consideration of the merits of the proposal.

The inspector found that the floor area did not fall outside the terms of the original permission because of the increased floor area. That did not call for any consideration of the merits of the proposal.

The local authority moved to quash that decision and sought a declaration that Mr Oury's application was outside the terms of the outline permission. Mr Justice Schiemann had dismissed that application and the local authority now appealed.

In the present case the permission was clear, unambiguous and valid on its face, and apart from the reference number, there was no mention of the application. The general rule was that, in construing a planning permission, regard was to be had only to the permission itself.

Mr Ash submitted that the Local Authorities should not follow that case for two reasons:

1 The reasons appeared to be based on the proposition that the application was not available to be seen, whereas since 1988 it had to be included in the register and was therefore available to be seen by anyone interested.

Their Lordships did not accept that submission. It did not follow that simply because one of the reasons for the rule, even if it was the principal reason for the rule, no longer existed, that the rule itself should be abandoned.

The rule was affirmed by the House of Lords in *Slough Estates Ltd v Slough Borough Council and Others* (No 2) [1991] AC 958, where there was no hint of reservation or disapproval of the rule. The planning authority tasked jurisdiction to grant permission for substantially more than had been applied for.

However, in their Lordships' judgment, it did not follow that an application for a planning permission was also free to be made. The rule was established.

There were recognised exceptions to it: (i) where the planning permission incorporated by reference the detailed application, and the accompanying plans; (ii) where the permission was ambiguous on its face; (iii) where the validity of the planning permission was challenged on the ground of want of authority or mistake.

Mr Justice Sedley said that the application for a planning permission was not a mere formality. It was a document which had to be read and interpreted. The application for a planning permission was not a mere formality. It was a document which had to be read and interpreted.

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Formal caution can be reviewed

Regina v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Ex parte P
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curtis
[Judgment May 9]

Where a formal caution was administered in clear breach of Home Office guidelines, the Divisional Court could properly exercise its supervisory jurisdiction to review the legality of the caution.

To ensure that the guidelines were scrupulously followed and to provide a valuable record of what had happened, it would be advisable in the case of juveniles as a matter of routine for a tape recording to be made of the actual cautioning procedure.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an application for judicial review by P aged 12, by his mother and next friend, against a decision to caution him on September 5, 1994 at Forest Gate Police Station for theft. The caution was quashed and expunged from the police records.

Mr Richard Clayton for P; Mr James Lewis for the commissioner.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that guidance for cautioning came in Home Office Circular 18/1994 containing "The Cautioning of Offenders" as

amended and "National Standards for Cautioning (Revised)", especially paragraph 2 and the accompanying notes setting out the necessary preconditions before caution could be administered.

The starting point for the reviewability of a decision to caution where none of the preconditions was met and in particular no clear and reliable admission of the offence was made, was *R v Chief Constable of Kent, Ex parte Smith* (1993) 1 All ER 754, 762, where Lord Justice Watkins had said: "A refusal to prosecute or even possibly to caution by the police is another matter. In that event the police may be vulnerable to judicial review, but only upon a basis which, the cases show, is rather severely circumscribed."

That decision was applied in *R v DPP, Ex parte C* (1994) 178 Times March 7, 1994 in the context of a challenge to the DPP not to prosecute. One basis of a successful challenge was held to be because the DPP failed to act in accordance with his own settled policy.

In the present case Mr Clayton submitted that the court could properly intervene if a caution was administered in clear breach of the guidelines in the circular.

His Lordship would not say that the court would invariably intervene. It was a matter for the court

in the exercise of its discretion. But a clear breach would bring a case properly into the purview of the Divisional Court's supervisory jurisdiction.

His Lordship rejected the submission on behalf of the commissioner that a decision to caution was only susceptible to judicial review if there was a flagrant and deliberate breach of the guidelines, because that put the matter too high.

A breach might be perfectly clear even although unintentional. That was what had occurred in the present case.

On a review of the evidence his Lordship found that there was the clearest failure to comply with the condition that an offender had to admit the offence and a caution would not be appropriate without such clear and reliable admission.

The process was flawed also by the police failure to deal with the further condition for an under 14 year old, namely the necessity to establish whether P knew what he was doing was seriously wrong.

Even if there was, contrary to his Lordship's clear conclusion, evidence establishing an admission of guilt, there was nothing in addition to establish that P did know, even recognising the fact that very little evidence was needed: see *C v DPP* (1994) 178 Times March 17, 1994.

His Lordship added that Mr Lewis had raised the possibility, as a matter of routine in future, of tape recording the actual cautioning procedure followed in the case of juveniles.

There was nothing in the judgment to offer encouragement to those cautioned to challenge the legality of their cautions. One would only rarely expect those who had been cautioned to succeed in showing that a decision was fully flawed for a clear breach of the guidelines. The present case was such an exception.

Mr Justice Curran agreed.

Solicitors: Wallace Bagnall & Co, Bow; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

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Remuneration of receivers

Alliance & Leicester Building Society and Others v Edgestop Ltd and Others (No 2)
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Rose
[Judgment May 18]

The remuneration of receivers appointed by the High Court was to be assessed either by a master in the Chancery Division, or by a taxing officer and the court had power by virtue of Order 30, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, as amended in 1992, and Order 62, rules 12 and 13 in the case of assessment by a taxing officer to make an order for taxation on either the standard or the indemnity basis.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by Mr A. R. Starkey and Mr C. J. Barlow, receivers of Edgestop Ltd, from the judgment of Mr Justice Morritt in December 1993 ordering the remuneration to be paid to them by the plaintiffs, Alliance & Leicester Building Society and Mercantile Credit Co Ltd, to be assessed by a taxing officer on the standard basis.

Mr William Stubbs, QC, for the receivers; Mr Nicholas Patten, QC

and Mr Christopher G. Russell for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the difficulty in the case arose from the amendment to Order 30, rule 3 made by the Rules of the Supreme Court (Amendment) Order 1992 (SI 1992 No 638 (L3)).

Before the amendment a receiver's remuneration was to be assessed in chambers by a master of the Chancery Division. The effect of the amendment was to give the court a choice between assessing it in that way and by a taxing officer.

Where 3(3) then provided that where it was assessed by a taxing officer Order 62, rule 13 would apply "as it applies to an assessment by a master". By rule 13 "where the court orders that costs are to be assessed or settled by a master or registrar, rules 3(4), 12, 14, 17 and 18 shall apply."

Rule 12 provided for the costs to be allowed on the standard and indemnity bases.

For the receivers, it was argued that the judge had no jurisdiction to make the order. That submission was based primarily on Order 62, rules 3(4) and (7).

The terms and effect of the material provisions were initially puzzling, in particular, Order 62, rule 7(2) which provided that a receiver's remuneration should not

be taxed. But Mr Patten's submissions showed that the puzzle was soluble.

The amended Order 30, rule 3 gave the court a choice between ordering an assessment by a master or by a taxing officer, a choice which would be valueless if the second alternative was not to be different in its effect from the first.

That effect was specifically provided for by Order 30, rule 3(3) and Order 62, rule 13. While it might not be altogether straightforward for the taxing officer to apply the rules referred to in Order 62, rule 13 he was effectively enjoined to do his best.

Rule 7(2) had to yield to the clear and specific provisions introduced by the 1992 amendment. Now that the point had surfaced it might be prudent for some amendment to be made to rule 7(2).

It followed that the judge had jurisdiction to make the order and the argument by Mr Stubbs seeking to interfere with the way in which the judge had exercised his discretion in favour of the standard basis was to be rejected.

Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Rose agreed.

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Remuneration of receivers

Alliance & Leicester Building Society and Others v Edgestop Ltd and Others (No 2)
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Rose
[Judgment May 18]

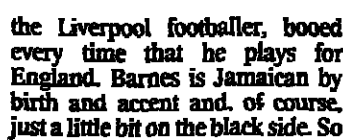
The remuneration of receivers appointed by the High Court was to be assessed either by a master in the Chancery Division, or by a taxing officer and the court had power by virtue of Order 30, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, as amended in 1992, and Order 62, rules 12 and 13 in the case of assessment by a taxing officer to make an order for taxation on either the standard or the indemnity basis.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by Mr A. R. Starkey and Mr C. J. Barlow, receivers of Edgestop Ltd, from the judgment of Mr Justice Morritt in December 1993 ordering the remuneration to be paid to them by the plaintiffs, Alliance & Leicester Building Society and Mercantile Credit Co Ltd, to be assessed by a taxing officer on the standard basis.

Mr William Stubbs, QC, for the receivers; Mr Nicholas Patten, QC

SPECIAL

Yet to be English, or British, through and through — what does it mean? It means, for a start, that failure, even comparative failure, is unforgivable. Ask John Barnes.



Perhaps the point is that nationality is less and less an inextricable part of what a person actually is. International sport feeds on simple national loyalties, but, in a changing and ever-more-fluid world, it is harder and harder to keep up the pretence.

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DURBAN

"They have four or five beautiful kickers, all so easy on the ball and one of them is Ezequiel Jurado, who will be




Neither tournament brought Argentina much joy. Their sole success, in six games, came against Italy in 1987. As it happens, they play each other again in East London on June 4 in the final round of pool matches. "Italy are here with three Argentinian players in their squad," Petra, the coach, said drily "but we are more worried about playing good rugby and qualifying for the quarter-finals. There will be no problems."

Dealer North

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F S

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Korchnoi wins

Viktor Korchnoi, 64, wrapped up the Madrid tournament win first prize ahead of a field of international players. Korchnoi was old enough to be the father of seven of his rivals and the grandfather of the other two. His triumph was tempered in the last round when he lost to Judit Polgar.

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39	Qb7+	Kh8
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42	Oc5	Kh7
43	Be3	Qf6
44	Qa7+	Kg6
45	Bc1	Qe5
46	Og1+	Kh7
47	Qg5	Oxg5
48	Bxg5	c5
49	Kc1	c4
50	a3	Kg6
51	Kd2	Kh7

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[illegible]

□ The General European team championships will be played in Vilnius, Lithuania.

was a dubious action — as when as a dubious spade stopper, he should have had a diamond stopper. My retreat to Four Clubs over NNT Doubled was worse. At the time, I judged ferretness, as it turned out that the main thing was to avoid a disaster. So it seemed prudent. With East's double announcing a bad break in diamonds, to retreat to Four Clubs. When I look at it again, that is too pessimistic — my hand has an alternative source of tricks in any event, is not likely to go a lot off in JNT.

In Four Clubs, I put up the

from June 12 to July 1. There is an open and a women's series. *The Times* will be publishing the results every day.

The European championship book, by Brian Senior and Mark Horton, will tell the story of the championship. It will be published on July 25. Normal price £8.00, available to *Times* readers at a pre-publication price of £6.50. Inquiries to 0115 94 22615, fax 0115 94 22359.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the *Weekend* section on Saturday.

WORD-WAIVERING

By Philip Howard

CHENDIADYS

a. Free-range eggs
b. Rhetorical exaggeration
c. A tandem phrase

HYSTERON PROTERON

a. An echoic metre
b. Part for the whole
c. Cart before horse

LITOTES

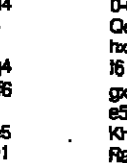
a. Understatement
b. A type of paradox
c. Verboosity

SYLLEPSIS

a. A grammatical pun
b. Part for the whole
c. A rhetorical parenthesis

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14 Ne4 Bd6

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18	Ne5	Bxe5
20	Kc5	Nd5
20	Rh4	0-0
21	g4	Qe7
22	g5	hxg5
23	Rg4	h6
24	axb6	g6
25	h4	e5
26	hxg5	Kh8
27	Re1	Rb8
28	Qd7	Qd7
29	Rg1	Ra5
30	Re5	hx5
31	Bxg5	O5
32	Bc1	Qe6
33	Qe1	Rg6
34	Rg6+	Kxg6
35	Qg1+	Kh8



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

SECRET

Revitalizing
plan...

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Solid Scots decide to hold Cronin in reserve

FROM MARK SOUSTER
IN PRETORIA

ALTHOUGH the Ivory Coast are widely regarded as the makeweights of the 1995 World Cup, Scotland, though holding back some of their big guns, have rightly taken no chances for their opening game, in Rustenburg on Friday. While a soft option might have been to give more second string players a match, and in so doing give Cameron Glasgow his first cap, Duncan Paterson, the team manager, has shown that there is no room for sentiment at this level.

Knowing the propensity of Scotland teams in various sporting arenas to slip up when least expected — against Iran and Costa Rica, in football World Cups, are just two examples — the side chosen has a solid, experienced look about it. As Paterson said yesterday: "We felt, for the game coming up, that this is the strongest side."

Although he did not say it, he might have added: "Horses for courses". The attacking

SCOTLAND

G. Hastings (Wales), captain; C. Jones (Ireland), A. Stanger (Ireland), C. Shiel (Ireland), K. Logan (Ireland), C. Chalmers (Ireland), R. Geddis (Ireland), P. Burns (Ireland), P. Wright (Ireland), P. Walker (Ireland), S. Campbell (Ireland), G. Weir (Ireland), S. Smith (Ireland), R. Wainwright (Ireland), P. Jackson (Ireland), S. Hastings (Ireland), J. Jardine (Ireland), D. Patterson (Ireland), D. Carr (Ireland), J. Morrison (Ireland), K. Milne (Ireland).

quality of the back division, one in which Craig Chalmers becomes Scotland's most capped stand-off on his 43rd appearance, was in evidence against Romania and Spain, when they had a field day.

Ivory Coast should provide equally rich pickings. Indeed, the three-quarters, established as the first choice, are more than likely, injuries permitting, to play in each of the pool games. If that is the case, then a few egos will have to be massaged, among them that of Scott Hastings, who found it hard yesterday to hide his disappointment at his omission.

Graham Shiel and Tony Stanger have won the argument at centre, if only for their attacking qualities. That means that Hastings and Ian Jardine, a regular until being injured against France, as well as Glasgow and Derrick Patterson, may be involved in World Cup proceedings only from beyond the touchline.

Up front, though, the pack



does have a makeshift look about it. The fact, though, that the front and back rows have never played together in an international matters not. The players chosen should have more than enough know-how against a side whose challenge will be physical, but otherwise limited.

Key players such as Damian Cronin, still with only 26 minutes meaningful rugby in four months, and Eric Peters, as well as David Hilton, who is not completely fit, are being kept back for the bigger challenges ahead.

So Paul Burnell plays at loose-head prop for only the second time in his international career, the last occasion being against Zimbabwe in the 1991 World Cup, and Rob Wainwright plays unusually at No 8 — despite suffering a freak injury which required five stitches. The West Hartlepool flanker, who is expected to revert to the No 6 shirt for the rest of the tournament, was taken to hospital after opening a gash on his eyebrow by falling on the ball during loose-play practice.

Paterson's initial selection strategy has already caused some head-scratching. The natural assumption had been that the strongest side would play throughout, building up to "le crunch", against France. However, in a one-off context, the team chosen makes sense.

With more difficult games ahead, against Tonga, as well as France, within eight days, the temptation to risk the heavy artillery, such as Cronin — if only to improve his match fitness — was considered too great. That is because, without Cronin, there is a worryingly hole in the Scottish front five which is mobile but not huge.

However, in a wider context it is through their effervescent back row, in the shape of Morrison, Wainwright and Peters, that Scotland will pose most threat in the days ahead. Hence the reluctance to expose all three at once. Meanwhile, Chalmers' record-breaking appearance confirms his rehabilitation as one of best stand-offs in the game.

This season, he has demonstrated that he is back to his sublime best.

Revitalised Wales play down passion

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN BLOEMFONTEIN

BLOEMFONTEIN is the capital city of the Orange Free State. Set in the Central Highlands of South Africa, it is the sixth largest city in the republic. The city's name derives, it is said, from the profusion of flowers that once bloomed around the fountain of a nearby farm, and which belonged to an influential Voortrekker. It is nowadays promulgated in publicity leaflets as the City of Roses.

Such brochures further assert that it is "where a rose future awaits you". In which case, the Wales rugby team, which has been ensconced in the city for the past week, must hope that the city lives up to its word. Having survived a period which has been less than Utopian, their journey in the World Cup, in Saturday before moving on to Johannesburg to meet New Zealand and Ireland, must be seen as an opportunity to forget the traumas of the recent past and to promote a vision of better prospects.

For the moment, the introspective mood, that had gripped them of late, has lifted. There is a new buoyancy abroad. There is a jauntyness to their humour as well as to their step. The training, which began in earnest within an hour of arriving and has continued with unceasing physical intensity since, has been purposeful and direct.

With typical candour and forthrightness, Alex Evans, their Australian coach, has insisted that they eschew the idea of their matches being won on passion and emotion. Success will come if they prove

themselves good rugby players. He announced, after their last exhaustive session: "I've got to say this. You've got to use your brains. Do the right thing at the right moment."

From now on, their sessions will not be any gentler, but Evans promised, with the opening match getting closer, that they will be shorter and sharper, just like so many of Evans' commands and directives. Time is not wasted; nor are words. If he is brutally frank one moment, he can then take a player aside for a quiet word the next. Persuasion and bluntness co-exist quite happily. The players have responded to the new regime. They give the appearance of being a revitalised squad.

On Sunday, they had a closed session when they played a controlled 45-minute period against a full Free State team prepared by Nellie Smith, a former Springbok player and coach. Yesterday, the forwards had a scrummaging session against the same squad. These went entirely satisfactorily, impressively so, apart from the withdrawal of Stuart Davies and John Davies, who retired because of neck pains. They are not expected to be discounted from selection of the team, which will be announced at lunchtime today.

This afternoon, the squad will visit a local township where they will take youngsters in a series of rugby clinics. This is laudable. These days, a new future awaits these youngsters. Does a brighter future in rugby terms also await Wales?

Lomu waits to spread his wings

John Hopkins on the
New Zealand prodigy
whose career can take
off in the World Cup

Remember the distinctive name of Jonah Lomu, the Tongan who will play for New Zealand against Ireland on Saturday, and remember the day you first heard it, because Lomu could become the sensation of the rugby union World Cup. Lomu is among the shortest names, but he is likely to make the biggest impact. He has the build of a forward and the speed of a back. He is the heaviest man in his team, yet he plays on the wing.

Lomu is the latest dynamic runner to have emerged from the islands that dot the Pacific and provide such a rich breeding ground for athletic, strong and characterful players. Where would rugby be, the 15-man game as well as the seven-a-side version, if it were not for contributions from players from Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa and the like? The most recent was Va'aiga Tuigamala, the stocky, immensely powerful and practically unstoppable Tongan turned All Black who has made such dents in Wigan's opponents since turning to rugby league after the last World Cup.

Remember Tuigamala? Well, forget him. "Lomu is bigger, faster and stronger than Tuigamala," Eric Rush, the Maori who is playing for

'A man of his
size and pace
can be almost
unstoppable'

New Zealand in South Africa, said. "Of course, he is also younger." Lomu was 20 earlier this month.

The first sight that anyone from the British Isles had of Lomu was in Dunedin in 1993, when he appeared for New Zealand Schools against the touring England Schools team. Eighty minutes later, the England players and management were shocked at what they had seen. Lomu scored two tries, and the margin of New Zealand's victory was a record 52-5.

More recently, Mike Teague, the former England back-row forward, sent out some more warning signals. "See him once and you realise you'd never want to run into him," Teague, who has run into a few big men in his time, said. Lomu is 6ft 5in and weighs 19 stone, heavier than Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand hooker and captain, Ian Jones and Robin Brooke, two of the locks, and Zuzzan Brooke, the No 8.

To date, Lomu has made his name as a sevens expert of terrifying efficiency. In the wide, open spaces of sevens, a man of his size and pace can be almost unstoppable, and in the New Zealand teams in the 1994 and 1995 Hong Kong Sevens competitions, Lomu was just that. "He is about the



Lomu combines a forward's strength with a back's speed to devastating effect

most devastating runner I have ever seen when there are 14 men on a pitch." Les Cusworth, the manager of the England team in those competitions, said. "In sevens, you look for power and pace, and Lomu has got both those and more."

Cusworth warned, however, that such skills do not necessarily translate to performances of similar quality in the 15-a-side game. Sure enough, when Lomu played left wing for New Zealand in the two-match series against France last summer, his defence was considered to be naive, and, after these games,

consideration was given to moving him to flanker. Lomu did not play when New Zealand beat Canada 73-7 last month.

When one sees Martin Bayfield or Derwyn Jones, the second-row forwards, it is immediately obvious that they are exceptionally tall men. At first glance, the bull-like neck and enormous shoulders of Jason Leonard, the England prop, suggest a man of strength and weight. Lomu carries his weight and size, and probably his learning, lightly. He does not look to be either as tall or as heavy as he is. "He looks gauche,"

an insider in the New Zealand camp said. "He does not have an air of superiority. He looks what he is, a rather quiet, shy, God-loving young man who neither drinks nor smokes."

The quietness and shyness may disappear in the next few weeks as he comes to terms with his celebrity status. Whispers of not among rugby union officials, but it is rumoured that Lomu has been offered £1 million to play rugby league, by both the Brisbane Broncos and Wigan. American football officials are reported to be hovering around him, too.

If union stands united it need not be divided

David Miller says an intelligent
approach to professionalism can
ensure the superior code's future



Who owns rugby union? The third World Cup, which begins with the thunderclap between Australia, the holders, and the South African hosts tomorrow, will accelerate the demand for an answer. Unless one is found, and imposed, the scene will soon become as wild as the gold-rush to the American West a century ago.

The international control and the structural future of one of the finest games is on the line, threatened by its own galloping success.

Contrary to much exaggerated talk on the amateur-professional controversy, the game is not about players more than administrators. The game is fundamentally about the quality and character of the game itself. It is the long-term health of rugby union, not the players, that is at risk if both sides do not unite to protect it.

Tony O'Reilly, an Irish member of the British Isles team of 1985, has rightly said: "The game is going to lose much of its unique ethos and integrity." Yet that need not be so if the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), the game's governing body, can find more wisdom than has been exhibited by tennis, football, cricket and athletics when confronted with alleged professional ultimatums.

Players such as Carling, Guscott, Campese, Lynagh and others, whatever their lofty status and peripheral earning capacity, are nothing without the fabric and projection of the traditional international fixtures which they grace.

Twenty years or so on from the commercial waterfall introduced by television, all the traditional events that, for a century, have been the foundation stones of sport are under fire — the "majors" in tennis and golf, the Olympic Games. The World Cup in football has been diminished, in performance, by the demands of clubs and by general corruption of the laws, the latter a potential threat to rugby union. The game must stand firm.

That does not mean resisting professionalism, but embracing it intelligently when the IRFB meets in Paris in August. In England, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) brought ridicule upon itself by over-reacting to Carling's vulgar, but basically accurate, criticism. The IRFB has to ensure that it, too, does not qualify for the O. F. Club.

With Rupert Murdoch's television tentacles now grasping at rugby league, the union game has not a moment to lose in closing ranks. As Carling observes: "It's arrogant to think that the Murdoch-rugby league alliance is not a threat, that we will not lose our best players." Yet if rugby union acts fast and intelligently, it can show Murdoch that he has, in fact, picked the wrong

game. The World Cup that we are about to witness is a veritable menagerie of sporting tigers, never mind that it is run by OAPs.

With its audience of billions as the world's third largest sporting event, a projected £30 million profit plus a base to its playing pyramid around the world that is vastly larger than that of rugby league, union is unquestionably the superior code visually as well as numerically. It will halt the tide of defection to professional league if its own professionalism is rationalised in August.

The unions of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have just formed a company to conduct joint commercial negotiations and to determine a format for competition at provincial and national level. The northern hemisphere's leading countries had better likewise co-ordinate, and do so quickly.

"We do not favour open professionalism," Edward Griffiths, the chief executive of the South African Rugby Football Union said yesterday. "We believe players should have another job: but, last year, the Springboks spent 22 weeks engaged in rugby, for which they were allowed the maximum £45 per day remuneration. That is totally unreasonable. We have to find a way forward while recognising the traditions and special nature of rugby union."

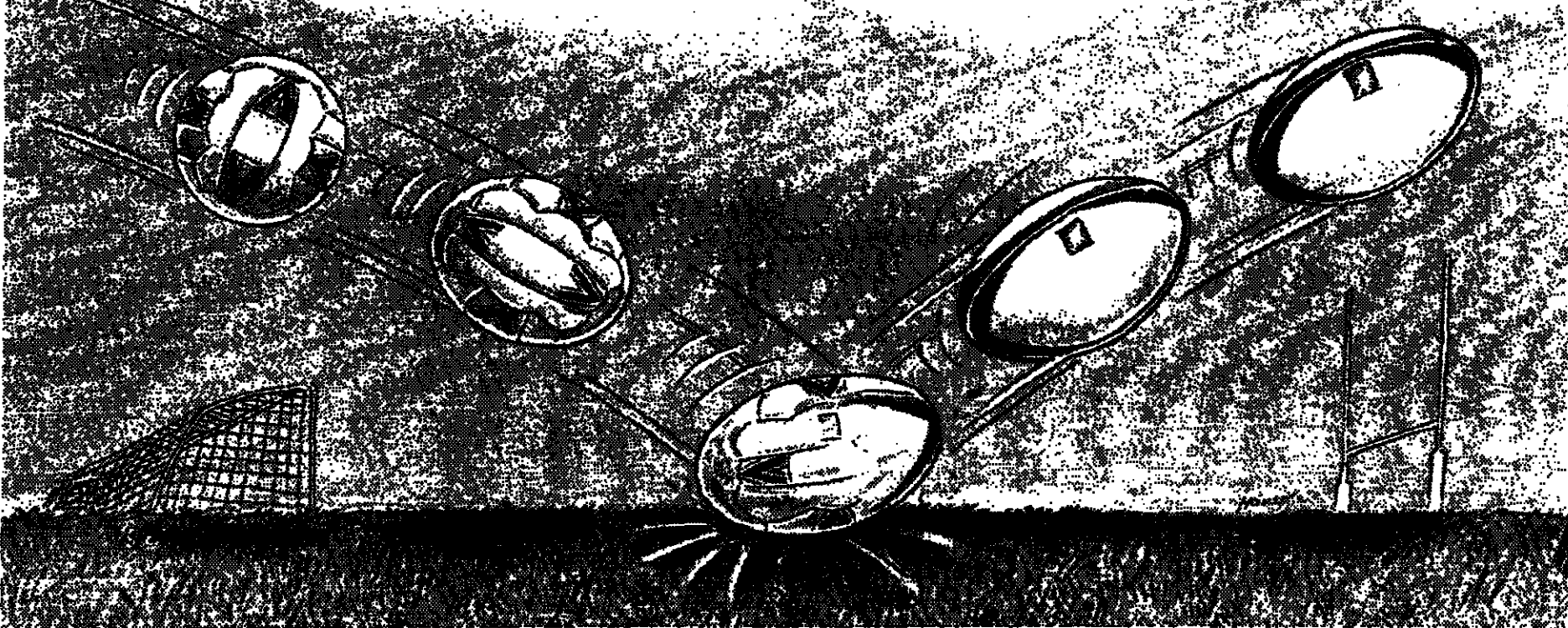
If it is united, by the spirit of the World Cup and then by the meeting in August, rugby union can comfortably fend off the televised league challenge, though the problem extends far beyond Murdoch's new involvement. How long can it be before union clubs in England are taken over by commercial operators who then pick off the best international players from Wales, Scotland and Ireland, thus jeopardising the international performance of those countries, as in football?

Vernon Pugh, a QC and the president of the Welsh Rugby Union, who was chairman of the IRFB last year, may have some of the right answers from his investigation, which is to be presented in August, but these are unlikely to go far enough. To meet commercial operators of Murdoch's calibre, sport needs full-time administrators, not the O. F. Club.

Professional attitudes and circumstances have left the amateurs behind. Bill Bishop, the former Cornwall hooker and president-in-waiting on the RFU, has admitted a serious lack of communication with England players. He says that he will be in South Africa "for much of the tournament".

At such a significant sporting event, how can England's chief administrator not be in full-time attendance? You cannot help but feel that the likes of Murdoch deal with the Bishops of this world as the lion does the antelope.

TO STAY ON THE BALL THIS SUMMER...



...CEE PAGE 370.

Last summer, it was World Cup USA. This summer, it's World Cup South Africa. And, once again, CeeFax will be keeping you right abreast of the action. With full match previews, all the

latest team news, and score-by-score up-dates on games in progress. Plus reports and the latest group standings within minutes of the final whistle. In fact, the only difference from last

year's World Cup is that the ball's changed shape. And we've a real chance of winning.

BBC CEEFAX

First with the facts

Warrior Mansell denied champion's finale

It should have ended in Adelaide last November when Nigel Mansell swept past the stricken cars of Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher and crowned his return to Formula One with a victory in the Australian Grand Prix which assured his Williams team of its fourth constructors' championship in succession. That would have been a fitting finale.

Instead, his career appears to have finished on a dud note in Barcelona ten days ago, parking an uncompetitive McLaren-Mercedes in its garage in disgust after an unfavourable battle for twelfth place with the Tyrrell of Ukyo Katayama. "In this business, you are only as good as your

last race," Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's impresario, said yesterday, and Mansell will surely shrink from the memory of that Spanish Grand Prix. Four years earlier, he had provided the world with one of sport's defining moments at the same track, duelling wheel to wheel with the McLaren of Ayrton Senna as they sped down the straight. As they approached the corner at the end still neck and neck, the spectators held their breath wondering who would yield. It was Senna.

That was part of the attraction of Mansell, the perception that he would never give in, that he possessed determination bordering on madness and that his rivals, though



Oliver Holt on the end of the road for the driver who took Formula One to new heights of popularity

they may have been more skilful and calculating, respected this. He had his detractors, but Mansell took Formula One to new levels of popularity in England and around the world.

He has always been labelled a whinger, and some disliked him for his insistence on stressing his own talents rather than the merits of the cars he was driving. But he got the job done. His career seemed to be one long battle against the odds, one long

struggle to be respected by a glamorous, aristocratic sport which distrusted his working-class background and his Midlands accent.

His early career is littered with stories of broken bones in accidents, of being given the last rites, of re-mortgaging his modest house to pay for a drive. In his first Formula One race, for Lotus in the 1980 Austrian Grand Prix, he drove much of the race being slowly burned on his back by leaking petrol.

It was 73 races before he won a Grand Prix, at Brands Hatch in 1985, and that opened the floodgates. The following year, he came within an ace of the world title, denied only when a rear tyre burst on his Williams-Honda at 190mph, and forced him out of the last race of the season in Australia.

He was runner-up twice more and retired once before he finally crushed the opposition in his Williams-Renault in 1992 to take the title in a wave of Mansell-mania and track invasions at Silverstone. Even then, though, the triumph was tarnished by melodrama when he announced midway through the season that he was leaving the team

because it had signed Alain Prost for the following year. By now, the days when he would pin rivals like Senna up against a wall by their throats when he was angry with them had gone, and he mellowed in his two years in IndyCar. But he did not lose the ability to grab the headlines. In the Indianapolis 500 last year, he was put out of the race when a back marker's car lapped across the track and landed on top of him. Mansell leapt out of the car and rolled on the ground with a marshal. It was pure theatrics.

The Formula One comeback at the end of last year should have been his swan song. But, for some, retirement is hard to embrace.

England are one-day favourites

West Indies faced with unfamiliar burden of anxiety

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HOW quickly roles can be reversed, and how time can cloud the memory. Think back a mere three months, to the angst-ridden end of England's winter in Australia, and it will seem inconceivable that, yesterday, on the eve of a new international summer, those cricketers who spoke with concern and apprehension, those who admitted that they needed a boost, were not Englishmen but West Indians. It is not as silly as it sounds, for human nature dictates that it will always be recent events that dominate the psyche. England were not the last team to be beaten by Australia: West Indies were. Because, for them, the loss was more shocking, it is their unaccustomed lot to have to prove their manhood again.

The beneficiary of this situation is the Texaco Trophy, which begins today at Trent Bridge. West Indies sides of modern times have disdained the one-day internationals on an England tour, either because they regarded them as a trivium or because they assumed that they would win anyway.

This side knows that it would be ill-advised to proceed on either premise. Hence, the stated determination of Richie Richardson, the captain, to raise spirits and confidence during what he described as "a very important week". Michael Atherton, the England captain, meanwhile, said that he was "unconcerned" about the West Indies. "If we play to our ability, I believe we can win," he said.

Past and present form conspire to complicate the task of Richardson's men. Remarkably, they have won none of their past six one-day interna-

tional in this country, losing both the 1988 and 1991 series 3-0. Since they arrived here, their cricket has been disjointed and distracted. Key men are short of confidence, some so flat that their futures are being openly questioned.

All of this is contributing to an artificial upturn in the perception of the England team. There is no logical reason for supposing that the sometimes scholastic all-rounders of a few months ago have undergone an identity change, yet the growing belief is that they can win this summer — not only over the sprinters this week but also the marathon Test series to follow.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (probable): M.A. Atherton (captain), A.J. Stewart, G.A. Hick, G.P. Thorpe, M.R. Rampersad, N.H. Fairbrother, D.G. Cork, D. Gough, P.A.J. DeFreitas, S.D. Udal, A.R.C. Fraser.

WEST INDIES (probable): C.L. Hooper, S.L. Campbell, B.C. Lara, R.B. Richardson (captain), J.C. Adams, K.L. Arthurson, J.R. Murray, W.K.M. Benjamin, I.R. Bishop, C.E.L. Ambrose, C.A. Walsh.

Umpires: D.H. Shepherd and N.T. Pless.

The bookmakers have England as 9-1 favourites to win the three-match Texaco series. Such faith is flimsily based, judged on England's failure to reach the winter World Series Cup finals and West Indies' subsequent 4-1 destruction of Australia in the Caribbean. Yet it was not difficult to share yesterday, as England practised with an unmistakable air of purpose starkly at odds with the West Indies' anxiety.

This was the first day on which Raymond Illingworth's secondary role as team manager was open to public scrutiny and he sprang an immediate surprise by taking

the field in a tracksuit. He also stretched a muscle or two on the edge of the team exercise session and chased a few balls at a fielding practice orchestrated by Atherton and Alec Stewart before resuming a position more suitable for a 62-year-old, monitoring the seam bowlers' net.

He was an influence for good here, rapidly remonstrating with Darren Gough and Angus Fraser as they wilfully overstepped by a yard in the lazy fashion that has for far too long been condoned at England nets. Bad habits grooved at practice are not easily abandoned in a match, and if Illingworth's pre-emptive strike saves England a handful of no-balls today, it could conceivably win them the game, for this is an area in which West Indies are profligate.

No-balls and wides have plagued them in their past two one-day series here. In 1988, they bowled 48 extra balls and in 1991 the figure was an astonishing 68. They have learnt little in the interim, judged on their only competitive one-day match on tour, in which their count was nine wides and 15 no-balls, eight of them from Curly Ambrose, the bowler who continues to cause grave concern.

Doubts were cast over Ambrose by Andy Roberts, his coach, before he had bowled a ball in anger on tour. Now that he has bowled many in obvious anger, most of them uncharacteristically misdirected, he has to start the international against a background of whispering (nobody would dare say it to his face) that his great days are gone. "He is aware he has not been bowl-



Illingworth dons tracksuit and joins Atherton and the England squad in their warm-up before net practice at Trent Bridge yesterday

ing well," Richardson said yesterday, "but I think you will see him more motivated tomorrow."

Ambrose and Courtney Walsh will share the new ball

today and there is a chance that Ian Bishop, whose career has been cruelly hampered by injury, will be chosen as one of four fast bowlers.

England seem likely to omit

Peter Martin and Alan Wells, their fringe selections, and, if one believes the weather forecast, the 99th one-day international will comfortably extend into a second day.

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORDS

England									
Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Cts
M.A. Atherton	2	2	0	841	86	420.5	—	7	—
D.G. Cork	1	1	0	11	11	11.00	—	—	—
P.A.J. DeFreitas	51	51	23	551	49	15.30	—	—	26
N.H. Fairbrother	1	1	0	128	113	128.00	1	9	19
A.R.C. Fraser	31	31	13	78	35	6.00	—	—	1
D. Gough	7	7	4	1	1	0.25	—	—	1
A.H. Jones	4	4	1	147	105	39.81	—	12	25
M.R. Rampersad	4	4	2	47	31	23.50	—	—	3
A.J. Stewart	61	56	4	1567	103	30.13	1	10	474
G.P. Thorpe	1	1	0	22	22	22.00	—	—	—
S.D. Udal	1	1	0	9	9	9.00	—	—	—
* denotes not out									
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Ave	Best	Sw	Econ	
D.G. Cork	53	1	213	5	42.60	3-49	—	4.01	
P.A.J. DeFreitas	848	1	10,326	104	31.57	4-35	—	3.67	
N.H. Fairbrother	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	9.00	
A.R.C. Fraser	2814	4	1069	35	30.54	4-22	—	3.98	
D. Gough	64	0	127	12	18.91	5-44	—	3.74	
G.A. Hick	95	4	460	13	35.38	3-41	—	4.84	
S.D. Udal	88	4	243	8	30.37	2-37	—	3.57	
P.J. Martin and A.P. Wells have not played in one-day internationals.									
West Indies									
Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Cts
C.L. Hooper	111	31	22	825	81	28.10	—	6	234
C.E.L. Ambrose	78	68	14	1578	84	28.18	—	9	20
K.L.I. Arthurson	24	11	—	54	17	13.50	—	—	4
M.K.M. Benjamin	81	50	12	275	21	7.23	—	—	18
I.R. Bishop	53	25	11	223	38	15.92	—	—	10
S.L. Campbell	0	4	0	49	22	12.25	—	—	1
R. Dring	6	2	—	8	8	8.00	—	—	—
C.L. Hooper	120	116	27	225	116	16.66	—	16	66
B.C. Lara	84	69	7	3315	153	43.59	5	28	65
J.R. Murray	36	16	—	115	30	10.45	—	—	32
I.R. Richardson	108	102	28	660	63	13.43	—	41	265
C.A. Walsh	140	49	20	246	30	8.48	—	—	4
S.C. Williams	17	17	2	512	73	24.13	—	3	40
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Ave	Best	Sw	Econ	
C.L. Hooper	3	2	58	2	29.50	1-2	—	4.53	
C.E.L. Ambrose	986.5	128	3445	154	22.37	5-17	—	4.48	
K.L.I. Arthurson	66.5	3	465	20	23.25	3-31	—	4.39	
M.K.M. Benjamin	200.1	12	812	34	12.89	3-18	—	4.05	
I.R. Bishop	703.4	56	2599	83	31.48	5-22	—	4.16	
S.L. Campbell	10	0	67	0	—	—	—	6.70	
R. Dring	44	2	170	10	17.00	4-26	—	3.86	
C.L. Hooper	865.4	4	377	129	29.50	4-34	—	4.50	
B.C. Lara	4	0	22	2	11.00	2-5	—	5.50	
J.R. Murray	84	0	46	18	46.00	1-4	—	4.75	
I.R. Richardson	128.4	114	478	153	29.56	3-1	—	4.65	
C.A. Walsh	17	17	2	512	73	24.13	—	3	40
C.O. Browne and O.D. Gibson have not played in one-day internationals.									

RADIO CHOICE

Hooked on a life of crime

Yardie Gal. Radio 5, 2.35pm.

Dennis was a black gang leader whose charm and charisma quickly appealed to Louise, a 20-year-old prostitute, who tells her story in the channel's crime season. *Laying Down the Law*. She was soon earning so much money for him that he had no need to go out and rob. "I suppose I was an easy ticket — I saved him from prison," says Louise. The down side to their relationship was that she was beaten up so much she lost count. After one attack she looked like the Elephant Man. Desperate, she went to the police but they took no action. How she escaped the reign of terror was a superb piece of bluff. Hers was an addictive lifestyle, we are told, so it would have been interesting to know how she got into it.

Forging a Nation. Radio 4, 8.45pm.

Germany's remarkable rise from the ashes of the Second World War back to recovery in just a decade is described crisply in a documentary that takes us from the re-education in England of managers and bureaucrats to the laying by Adenauer of a wreath to an unknown American soldier in the American national cemetery at Arlington a few short years later. It was the Marshall Plan that provided the building blocks at a time when rag-ends were worth more than pennies. How the West Berliners were fed, clothed and watered during the Berlin airlift is described through eyewitness accounts by correspondents and survivors. Kenneth Gowing

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo, 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Les (Phonon) including at 12.30 12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Noddy Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Radio To Top 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Lloyd	All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe (MW only) Off the Shelf 5.45 Country 6.00 News 6.30 Omnibus (MW only) Europe 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Megamix 8.00 News 8.15 Fourth Estate 8.30 Discovery 8.40 News (MW only) News in German 9.10 Words of Faith (MW only) News in German 9.15 Drama: Oliver Twist 10.00 News 10.15 Andy Kershaw 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf Noon News 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Brian Tracy 2.00 Composer of the Month: Faure 2.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Megamix 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Discovery 5.00 News 5.15 Foreign Postings 5.45 Folk Routes 6.00 News 6.15 From Our Own Correspondent 6.30 The World Today (MW only) News in German 6.45 Sport (MW only) News in German 7.00 News 7.30 Music 8.00 News 8.00 Europe Today 8.30 Outlook 8.55 Faith 10.00 News 10.15 Brian 10.30 Multiracism 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Opera Behind the Scenes 12.15 Sport 12.40 Pop Nuggets 12.15 Sport 1.00 News 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Brian 2.00 News 2.15 Ideas 2.35 Wind in a Nushel 2.45 Farming 3.00 News 3.30 Sport 4.00 News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Assignment
RADIO 2	RADIO 5
FM Stereo, 6.00am Martin Kelner 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 9.00am Chris Stuart 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2.00 Folk Club 8.30 Collecting Folk 9.00 Talks and Items (20) 8.30 Nigel Ogden: The Organist Entertains 10.30 The Jameson 12.05am Steve Madden with Night Ride 3.00 Alex Lester	5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 7.15 The Podcast 8.00 The Magazine, incl at 10.20 A Handful of Holograms, and at 11.55 Police 5 to 12 12.00 Midway with Mar, incl at 12.30pm Moneycheck, and at 1.35 Crime in the Community 2.05 Russia on Five, including at 2.35 Yardie Gal: See Choice 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at 6.15 Crime Update 7.05 Trevor Brooking's Football Night: Aps v AC Milan, Europa Cup Final 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night
TALK RADIO	VIRGIN RADIO
6.00am Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Maurice Chevalier with Carol McGiffin 10.00 Caesar 1.00am Ian Collins	6.00am Russ 11.00am Richard Sherry 12.00 Maurice Chevalier with Nick Abbott 7.30 Paul Coyne 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-4.00am Robin Banks
RADIO 3	CLASSIC FM
6.00am Open University: Learning through Life: Education and Employment 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: Walter Frye (Tou a pal, Mendocino) (Intermezzo; Nocturne, A Midsummer Night's Dream); 7.32 Handel: Handbook: Handel (Trio Sonata in D, Op 5 No 2); 8.05 Rossini (Overture: La Cenerentola); Rimsky-Korsakov (The Golden Cloud Sleep: The Last Cloud); Lambert (Suite: Horoscope) 9.00 Composers of the Week: Widor and Vierne, Widor (Merchies pontificale, and Symphony No 1; Mass: Vivace, Piano Quartet in A minor); Vierne (Naldes; Fantaisies, Pièces de l'orgue, and 12 Preludes) 10.00 Musical Encounters: Mozart (Serenade in D, Serenata notturna); Beethoven (Two Studies, Op 51, Doctor Faust); Bruckner (String Quartet in C minor); Havergal Brian (Symphony No 5, Wre of Summer); 11.30 Artists of the Week: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Poulenc (Suite Les biches) 12.00 Music Restored: including works by Alfonso Ferrabosco, Robert Johnson, William Lawes and Stephen Naul (r) 1.00pm Cello and Piano: Beethoven (Cello Sonata in A, Op 69); Shostakovich (Cello Sonata, Op 40) (r) 2.00 Schools: Double Take: An Assembly for Schools 2.20 Time and Tune: Music Course 2 — Stop... Danger... Go! 2.40 Drama Workshop	6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.45 Foreign Postings 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Kelly 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Gardening Forum (r) 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Maginn 1.00am Mark Griffiths
RADIO 4	CLASSIC FM
6.00am Open University: Learning through Life: Education and Employment 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: Walter Frye (Tou a pal, Mendocino) (Intermezzo; Nocturne, A Midsummer Night's Dream); 7.32 Handel: Handbook: Handel (Trio Sonata in D, Op 5 No 2); 8.05 Rossini (Overture: La Cenerentola); Rimsky-Korsakov (The Golden Cloud Sleep: The Last Cloud); Lambert (Suite: Horoscope) 9.00 Composers of the Week: Widor and Vierne, Widor (Merchies pontificale, and Symphony No 1; Mass: Vivace, Piano Quartet in A minor); Vierne (Naldes; Fantaisies, Pièces de l'orgue, and 12 Preludes) 10.00 Musical Encounters: Mozart (Serenade in D, Serenata notturna); Beethoven (Two Studies, Op 51, Doctor Faust); Bruckner (String Quartet in C minor); Havergal Brian (Symphony No 5, Wre of Summer); 11.30 Artists of the Week: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Poulenc (Suite Les biches) 12.00 Music Restored: including works by Alfonso Ferrabosco, Robert Johnson, William Lawes and Stephen Naul (r) 1.00pm Cello and Piano: Beethoven (Cello Sonata in A, Op 69); Shostakovich (Cello Sonata, Op 40) (r) 2.00 Schools: Double Take: An Assembly for Schools 2.20 Time and Tune: Music Course 2 — Stop... Danger... Go! 2.40 Drama Workshop	6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.45 Foreign Postings 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Kelly 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Gardening Forum (r) 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Maginn 1.00am Mark Griffiths

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

HENDIADYS

(c) The expressing of a compound notion by giving its two constituents as though they were independent and connecting them to a conjunction instead of subordinating one to the other, as "pour libations from beer and gold" for golden beer. Sic "nice and warm", "try and do better", "peace and favour" = gracious favour.

HYSTERON PROTERON

(b) Putting the cart before the horse in speech, as in Dogberry's "Masters, it is proved already that you are like better than false knaves, and it will go near to be thought so shortly." A less crude example "BA is running its airlines as a prosperous and viable industry."

LITOTES

(a) A particular form of meiosis or understatement for rhetorical effect, in which the positive notion required is substituted in opposite with a negative. "I praise you not" has the effect of an emphatic "I praise you." It is litotes for "We are the greatest."

SYLLEPSIS

(c) "Yoking" or using a single word punningly with two separate constructions. "Miss Bole went home in a flood of tears and a Baili chair." "He lost his hat and his temper." To be distinguished from zeugma. "Kill the boys and the luggage." Syllepsis is grammatically correct, but requires a word to be understood in a different sense for each half of its yoke. Whereas, in zeugma, the word fails to give sense with one of its pair, and from it the appropriate word has to be supplied. You destroy or plunder luggage, but cannot kill it in the extreme acceptance of the word.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CRESS MOVE

1... Qxg2+ 2... Qxg2 Rxx3, Qxx3 xxcs with an overwhelming material advantage.

SOMM

ANGLO
At London 10.30

CENTRAL
At London 10.30

GRANADA
At London 10.30

HTV WALES
At London 10.30

HTV WEST
At London 10.30

HTV WALES
At London 10.30

HTV WEST
At London 10.30

HTV WALES
At

Former world champion departs from McLaren after brief and ill-fated alliance

Mansell's career is flagged to a halt

BY OLIVER HOLT

A BRIEF statement couched in the cold language of bureaucrats and lawyers appeared to bring Nigel Mansell's glorious motor racing grand prix career to an inauspicious end yesterday. McLaren, the team of his ill-starred twilight days, announced that they and the 1992 world champion had "decided to end their current formula one agreement" and that he would not even be given the luxury of a glittering send-off in the Monaco Grand Prix this weekend.

Although the statement, issued from McLaren's headquarters in Woking, spoke only of a "suspension of the relationship" between team and driver, the split is almost certain to be final. From the beginning, it was evident that this was a marriage made in hell. Yesterday, both partners thankfully escaped each other's clutches and sought sanctuary in a quickie divorce.

As the team announced that Mark Blundell, its test driver, would drive for McLaren in Monte Carlo and at the next race in Canada, Mansell admitted he had "no immediate plans in Formula One". It is hard to see any way back for him. Even those prepared to

keep the faith after his lacklustre performances with McLaren would balk at his salary demands now. There are no vacancies in the leading teams, anyway, and with his 42nd birthday only three months away there is no future in a trip to the lower end of the grid.

Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's impresario and for so long Mansell's champion, was first to offer a bitter-sweet valediction. "It is a great shame Nigel could not have left Formula One by winning a couple of races," he said. "I do not like to see him leaving like this. But he is a competitive animal and I guess he just thought he could not do himself justice. I do not think he really gave himself a fair chance but the decision was reached between him and the team."

Whether he chooses to take refuge in the sumptuous new golf course and country club he is building in Devon or to limit himself to guesting in a few races in other disciplines, it is unlikely that Mansell will be left wanting financially. There was no official hint yesterday about how much of the £7 million salary he had hoped to earn this year he had been able to salvage, but early suggestions were that it may be about £2 million.

For McLaren and its managing director, Ron Dennis, the alliance with Mansell was an unmitigated disaster, the latest mistake in the slow demise of a team once all-powerful. It became evident during the driver's first test in the car in Estoril, Portugal, in February, that the cockpit was too small for him and he was forced to miss the first two grands prix of the season while new, wider-bodied versions were built for him at a cost of £500,000.

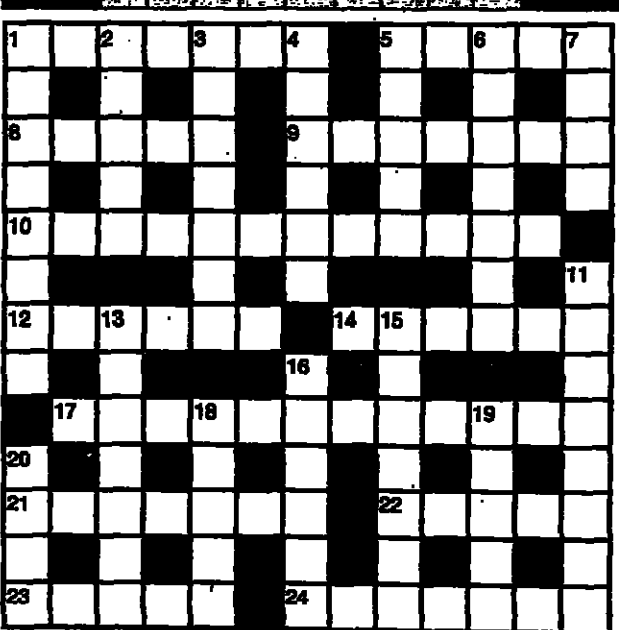
When he made his long-awaited return at Imola last month, it was clear he was dismayed by the car's lack of competitiveness. He finished tenth there but ten days ago he retired in the early stages of the Spanish Grand Prix even though there were no mechanical problems with the car, alarmed by its poor handling. McLaren and their new en-



Mansell, right, and Dennis, the managing director of McLaren, are deep in thought at their last public appearance together on Monday. Photograph: Tony White

NIGEL MANSSELL

1963: Born Aug 8, Upton-on-Severn.
1976: First car race, Mallory Park. Wins in a Formula Ford Hawk 100.
1977: Breaks neck in a Formula Ford. Told he might never drive again.
1980: Makes Grand Prix debut, Austria, in a Lotus. Retires with blown engine, suffering petrol burns.
1983: Switches to Williams and scores first win in European Grand Prix at Brands Hatch.
1986: Blows tyre in last race of season in Adelaide, robbing him of the world championship, won by Alain Prost.
1987: Finishes runner-up again, to Nelson Piquet.
1990: Breaks Slicking Moss's 30-year record of 16 grand prix wins by Englishman in British GP at Silverstone.
1991: Runner-up for third time.
1992: Becomes world champion with nine wins in 16 races. Gives him career total of 30 victories, beating Jackie Stewart's record of 27.
1993: Falls to second agreement with Williams for new season and launches new career in IndyCar racing with Newman-Haas. Lites. Chases critics by winning PPG Cup at first attempt.
1994: Agrees to return with Williams two months after Ayrton Senna's death. Competes in four races in between IndyCar commitments, winning final race of season in Adelaide.
1995: Signs £5-million one-year deal with McLaren.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 478

ACROSS

- 1 Light axe (7)
- 5 Confronted; coated (5)
- 8 Pipe-lighter; slop (5)
- 9 Vending machine (7)
- 10 Derbys, mansion of Bess of Shrewsbury (8,4)
- 12 Even; unctuous (6)
- 14 Fat schoolboy of Greyfriars (6)
- 17 I won't cooperate (7,5)
- 21 (Horse) failure to jump (7)
- 22 Principal German river (5)
- 23 Moneybag; contract (tips) (5)
- 24 Hooked-needle craft (7)

DOWN

- 1 Highly secret (4-4)
- 2 One making effort; 22land city (5)
- 3 Stupid person (7)
- 4 Hypnotic state (6)
- 5 Brine (5)
- 6 Court of King Arthur (7)
- 7 Obligation (4)
- 11 Broken-off piece (8)
- 13 Available (cheap) (2,5)
- 15 To experience (7)
- 16 As a group (2-4)
- 18 Speed (5)
- 19 — bull, coffee, stew (5)
- 20 Trick; two-wheeled carriage (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 477

- ACROSS: 1 Flapjack 7 Aorta 8 Inside job 9 Set 10 Tale 11 Clutch 13 A level 14 Tip off 17 Sapper 18 Slab 20 Sit 22 The Wrekin 23 Alike 24 Internal
- DOWN: 1 Reiter 2 Absolve 3 Judo 4 Cajole 5 Brash 6 Mastiff 7 Abstain 12 Respite 13 Abyssmal 15 Oilskin 16 Aegean 17 Strip 19 Banal 21 True

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gine partners, Mercedes, were furious at his apparent lack of commitment after the team had worked day and night to prepare the car. Dennis visited him in Devon last weekend where it appears they both decided to cut their losses.

"The performance of the 1995 car has not met the expectations of both parties so far this year," Dennis said yesterday. "Nigel has not felt confident within the car and

this has affected his ability to commit fully to the programme. In these circumstances, I believe that we have determined the most appropriate course of action. The relationship has been short and it has obviously not achieved the results anticipated by either party."

Mansell was in Devon yesterday, contemplating a future outside the sport. He has dabbled with retirement be-

fore, of course, during his second year with Ferrari in 1990 and shortly after clinching the world championship with Williams in 1992, when he eventually left Formula One for IndyCar racing in the United States. This time, though, he appears to have few options.

"At this stage of my career," he said, "I had expected, on joining McLaren, that the total package would have given me

the possibility to be competitive with the other top teams. I have certainly enjoyed many aspects of my relationship with the team and working with them has been a unique experience. They are undoubtedly building a future which will, I am sure, be successful in the long term. I have no immediate plans in Formula One but have welcomed the opportunity to keep in touch with the team, with whom I

have parted on the best possible terms. I am obviously disappointed that the relationship with McLaren and Mercedes, which could have achieved so much, has been concluded early."

Amid the drama of Mansell's demise, the appointment of Blundell, who proved such a capable replacement for him at the start of the season, was relegated to a sideshow. "It is a fantastic

opportunity for me," he said. "I will be doing the next two races and then I will sit down with Ron and discuss what the future holds. I have just come back from testing the car in Barcelona and we have made some steady progress. It is improving slowly but surely and there are possibilities for us to go and achieve some good results."

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Gascoigne, Ince and four new faces in squad for Umbro Cup

BY PETER BALL

TERRY VENABLES threw caution to the winds yesterday when he named Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince in the England squad to contest the Umbro Cup, the four-nation tournament, next month.

With Brazil, Sweden and Japan taking part, the tournament offers Venables his only opportunity of competitive fixtures ahead of the European championships, to be held in England next summer, so the squad is a revealing one. It is also, apart from the predictable, but regrettable, omission of Matthew Le Tissier and the injured Rob Jones and Steve Howey, an exciting one.

As well as the return of Gascoigne, the selection of Stan Collymore, the Nottingham Forest forward, and the surprise inclusion of Gary Neville, the young Manchester United defender, will stimulate interest. John Scales, the Liverpool centre half, and Ian Walker, the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper, are also brought in to the squad for the first time.

More contentiously, there is a recall for David Batty in place of Tim Sherwood, his captain at Blackburn Rovers, who was unavailable. Batty, like Gascoigne, last played in the match against Denmark 14 months ago, which was Venables' first game in charge.

But, inevitably, it is Gascoigne and Ince who are the focus of attention. Gascoigne is included after just one full match since his latest comeback from injury, with his career in Italy apparently over, and his future uncertain. "He always seems to have been at a critical stage in his

career as long as I've known him," Venables said at Elland Road yesterday. "I'm not sure if he is ready, that will be up to me to judge when I've seen him in training. It is a bit of an unknown situation, but he is much better off being with us than going on holiday."

That, at least, is unarguable. But, although a fit Gascoigne would add immeasurably to England's potential, his selection still seems to indicate his tenuous importance to the national coach, a role similar to that held by Bryan Robson in the mind of Venables' predecessor, Bobby Robson.

Venables is not the only one willing to take a gamble on Gascoigne, however, with Leeds United, Glasgow Rangers and Aston Villa among the clubs eager to add him to their staff. Venables insisted yesterday that there would be no negotiations, and no agents doing transfer business, in the team hotel while the tournament is in progress.

If Gascoigne's future remains uncertain, Paul Ince's will be decided at Croydon

magistrates' court today, where he is appearing on an assault charge. Although Ray Parlour, the Arsenal midfielder, was removed yesterday from the under-21 squad to play Latvia at Burnley on June 7 after his recent court appearance in Hong Kong, and Ince was left out of the friendly with Uruguay in March, the Manchester United midfielder player was included in yesterday's squad.

"It is so difficult," Venables said. "We haven't got a lot of

experience in dealing with this kind of thing, so we are dealing with each one on its merits as it comes up. At the moment, the case is undecided. I will have to wait and see what happens."

Collymore has forced his way into the squad, impressing Venables in last month's get-together. On recent form, he will provide a serious challenge to Andy Cole and Alan Shearer for a place in the starting line-up. The only question now is whether the recent formation utilises England's impressive fire-power to its best advantage.

Neville's rise has been even quicker, the 20-year-old coming into the squad without even taking part in one of the preliminary get-togethers. He has only won a permanent place in the first team at Old Trafford in the past three months, but his maturity and composure stood out during a trying season.

"His temperament looks good," Venables said. "On Saturday in the Cup Final he moved his position to centre half and looked as if he had played there all his life."

Venables was almost right. Neville's England youth caps came as a centre half.

Romario will not be appearing in the Umbro Cup because of club commitments but there are seven other members of Brazil's World Cup-winning side in the 22-man squad named yesterday. Jorginho, Cafu, Aldair and Marcelo Santos played in defence. Dunga and Zinbo in midfield and Bebeto as a forward in the team that beat Italy on penalties in the World Cup final last year.



Neville: exciting prospect



Batty: contentious choice

EAU
DE
ROCHAS
POUR
HOMME

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